

Environmental Sustainability Committee Meeting

May 10th, 2016, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Sherwood Community Center, Art Room

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order and welcome

Meeting called to order by Chairman Tim Killian at 7:00 p.m. Attendance is listed below.

Type	Name	Attendance
Member	Adam Basinger	Present
Member	Jon Buttram	Present
Member	Mark Chandler	Absent
Member	Susan Crate	Present
Member	Judy Fraser	Present
Member, Chair	Timothy Killian	Present
Member	Bruce Knight	Absent
Member	Michael Lee	Present
Staff	Stefanie Kupka	Present
Guest	Charish Bishop	Present

2. Consideration of the April 6, 2016 meeting minutes

Jon Buttram moved to adopt the minutes as presented, seconded by Adam Basinger and carried unanimously.

3. 2016 Work Priorities Plan and Budget

The committee members discussed the work priorities plan and budget.

- City Planner Kelly O’Brien submitted a letter requesting funding to support Bike to Work Day, which is scheduled for May 20th. Tim Killian moved to approve \$200 for Bike to Work Day, seconded by Adam Basinger and carried unanimously. The committee requested that staff hang the ESC banner and post information that ESC helped sponsor the event.
- Jon Buttram noted that Faiza Alam will be coming to the June ESC meeting along with a team of Lanier Middle School students. The students will be presenting a 3D model and plan for sustainable development of the Kamp Washington area.
- Judy Fraser recommended that the committee purchase additional copies of the “Native Plants for Northern Virginia” guidebook. She noted that last year the committee purchased 50 guides for \$175. Tim Killian motioned for the committee to spend \$175 to purchase the box of native plant guides, which passed unanimously.
- Judy Fraser noted that the Parks and Recreation Department provided \$1000 towards the purchase of native plants for Historic Blenheim. The committee discussed how educational signage could be posted in the native plant garden to help educate the

public on native plants and sustainable landscaping. Judy will bring in purchasing information from Val to the June meeting so the budget can be updated.

- Susan Crate recommend that the committee could purchase a costume (something like the “Stormy” costume from Fairfax County) for use at upcoming Fall Festivals.
- Judy Fraser noted that she is working with Betsey Bicknell and other City residents on a clean-up effort at Belle's Bird Sanctuary. Ultimately, they would like the area to qualify as a "wildlife sanctuary" as certified by the Northern Virginia Audubon Society. The area is overrun with invasive non-native (alien) plants, such as English ivy, Japanese honeysuckle, autumn olive, garlic mustard, multiflora rose, Japanese barberry, bush honeysuckle, and others. The committee recommends that they should take before and after photos to show the progress.
- The committee discussed supporting the adoption of invasive plant management policy and the development and implementation of an invasive management plan.
- Jon Buttram asked if invasive plant management was included in the Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan. He noted that he will look into this.
- Committee members noted interest in supporting the implementation of the Solid Waste Management Plan and requested that staff provide a short list of actions the committee could help with.
- Tim Killian noted that the tank farm holds an environmental risk. He noted that there was a large leak in the 90s that affected the adjacent neighborhoods. The committee wants to ensure that the oversight is done properly.

4. Fall Festival Planning, October 8th, 2016

The committee discussed preliminary plans for the Fall Festival. They noted that the theme of the Fall Festival Booth could support the Sustainability Workplace and Neighborhood Challenges.

5. Earth Day Program update

The Parks and Recreation Department held an Earth Day Event on April 22nd. The event was relocated to the Sherwood Community Center due to forecasted thunderstorms. The event had the following tables/activities: create an Eco-art sculpture, plant sunflowers, conduct a park clean-up, play a recycling game, learn about energy efficiency/Solarize NOVA, and learn about the City's new Comprehensive plan.

6. Earth Art Show update

The Earth Art Show was on display from 4/16-4/29. An hour long reception was held on 4/27. An Art Rain Barrel was on display during the event and now displayed at Old Town Square. Judy Fraser recommended that next year's Earth Art Show should be scheduled for the meeting after the adoption of the fiscal year budget.

7. Solarize NOVA promotion

Stefanie Kupka noted that the Solarize NOVA program ends May 15th.

8. Breezeway/Fairfax Gardens Redevelopment Update

Jon Buttram updated the committee on the status of the Breezeway/Fairfax Gardens redevelopment project review. Jon noted that he plans to schedule a meeting with committee members to discuss and finalize comments.

9. Chairperson's items

- Chair and Vice-Chair Elections are scheduled for June ESC meeting

10. Committee items

- **Judy** – The high school installed five raised vegetable garden beds.
- **Jon** –
 - Lanier students will give a presentation on their Kamp Washington study at the June 1st meeting. They will present their ideas for how to make the area more sustainable.
 - City of Fairfax students won a variety of awards at the environmental showcase.
 - The School Board has organizational meeting in July. The School board will select a new liaison for the ESC.
- **Susan** – She noted that she's traveling to Indiana from June through August to learn Mongolian and will most likely miss the next few meetings.

11. Staff items

- Zoning ordinance update: Progress on the City of Fairfax zoning rewrite project has continued and draft zoning and subdivision ordinances have been prepared for public hearings. The drafts are available for viewing at:
<http://www.zoningfairfax.com/library/code-drafts/>.

A public hearing has been scheduled for the Planning Commission meeting on **Monday, May 23, 2016 at 7:00pm** at City Hall (Council Chambers, 10455 Armstrong Street). Community members are encouraged to attend to provide comments.

A public hearing before the City Council would occur after the Planning Commission has considered the ordinances and made a recommendation. Complete documentation on the project is available at: www.zoningfairfax.com.

- A Comprehensive Plan presentation is scheduled for June ESC meeting.
- The July ESC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday July 6th at Green Acres.
- Staff is continuing to develop the Sustainability Workplace and Neighborhood Challenges. The committee recommended partnering with local business, such as ACE, to help with marketing. They also recommended holding demonstrations at the library and obtaining assistance from High School students (e.g. DECA business fraternity).

12. Public comments

No Comments

13. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. Next regular ESC meeting is June 1st, 2016 @ 7 p.m.

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