

Environmental Sustainability Committee Meeting

September 7th, 2016, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

The Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order and welcome

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

Type	Name	Attendance
Member	Adam Basinger	Present
Member	Charish Bishop	Present
Member	Jon Buttram	Present
Member	Mark Chandler	Present
Member	Susan Crate	Present
Member	Judy Fraser	Present
Member, Chair	Timothy Killian	Present
Member	Bruce Knight	Present
Member	Michael Lee	Present
Staff	Stefanie Kupka	Present
Guest	Annmarie Baribeau	Present
Guest	Betsy Bicknell	Present
Guest	Roland Cyr	Present
Guest	Marianna Lipold	Present
Guest	Valerie Morgan	Present
Guest	Katy O'Grady	Present
Guest	Heather Smith	Present

2. Consideration of the July 6, 2016 meeting minutes

Judy noted that the next meeting date should be updated to September. Judy then moved to adopt the minutes, seconded by Adam and carried unanimously.

3. Native Plant Garden Tour

- **Special Guest Speaker: Valerie Morgan**

Valerie Morgan gave the ESC a tour of the new native plant garden at the Historic Blenheim Center. Valerie spent hundreds of hours removing invasive species from the Blenheim Center grounds and planting a new native plant garden. She used funding provided by the ESC and other sources to purchase a wide variety of native plants and signage.

Valerie recommended reading the following books to learn more about sustainable landscaping.

- “Bringing Nature Home” by Douglas Tallamy
- “Living Landscapes” by Douglas Tallamy and Rick Darke
- “Native Plants for Northern Virginia” by Plant NoVA Natives

4. 2035 Comprehensive Plan: Vision Statement

Based on the feedback received from the community survey and discussions with City Council and City boards, committees and staff, the Planning Commission and staff have developed a draft vision statement for the 2035 Comprehensive Plan. The purpose of a vision statement is to describe a community’s values, aspirations and shared image of what it wants to become in the future. It is meant to be forward thinking and is written in a positive and inspirational style.

Stefanie asked the ESC if the vision statement accurately describes what they would like the City of Fairfax to be in 2035. She informed the ESC that comments can be submitted by email, online or in person at the September 26th Planning Commission meeting. More information on the Comprehensive Plan can be found online at: <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/livablefairfax>

The ESC agreed that they would submit comments on the vision statement as a committee. Mark agreed to collect and consolidate feedback. Tim agreed to submit the final comments by September 19th.

5. Workplace and Neighborhood Sustainability Challenges Update

Stefanie provided an update on the Workplace and Neighborhood Sustainability Challenges. The ESC recommended revising the implementation schedule to ensure the website is properly reviewed, tested and marketed.

Bruce noted that it may too ambitious to roll out all 6 categories in the first year. He recommended going down to 2 or three categories and then expanding in the future. He also recommended establishing a panel of judges, including city council and other community leaders, and other commissions or boards.

6. Fall Festival Planning (October 8th)

Stefanie noted that the ESC booth at the Fall Festival will be located at booth #541. The Fall Festival is scheduled for October 8th (Rain Date Oct 9th). The ESC distributed a sign-up sheet for volunteers. The ESC agreed to purchase grocery bags, lollipops and temp tattoos to distribute at the event.

The ESC discussed potential themes for the ESC booth:

- Our Ecosystem: Potential topics to be covered include invasive plants, native plants

- Waste Reduction and Recycling: Use posters and games from last year's fall festival, which includes information on composting and recycling.

7. ESC General Information Document and Resolution Review

Tim requested that all ESC members review the ESC Resolution and the ESC General Information document and to be prepared to discuss them at the October ESC meeting.

8. Chairperson's Items

No items

9. Committee Items

Judy noted that the Heritage Harvest Festival is being held on September 10th. There will be a nature walk and workshops about vineyards and gardens.

10. Staff items

No items

11. Public comments

No items

12. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. Next regular ESC meeting is October 5th, 2016.

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