

Mount Rainier Green Team Agenda
November 10, 2014, 7:00-9:00PM
City Hall

Agenda:

7-8PM

- De-brief on the PG Green Team Summit
- Discuss how to move out on a residential bin recycling analysis & proposal
- Update on the website project & carbon footprint
- Interest in coordinating a winter environmental/natural history lecture/talk series?

8-9PM (with Tree Commission and MUTC)

- Overview and discussion of Mount Rainier's Architectural Conservation Plan - MNCPPC

Future Meetings: The Second Monday of every month

December 8

January 12

November Meeting Notes

Attendees: MaryLee, Joseph, Veronica, Bill, Jodi-Beth, Jessica L. and John M.

Agenda Topics

De-brief on the PG Green Summit

On Oct. 29, Bill, MaryLee, Jarrett, Joseph and Veronica attended the PG Green Team Summit. The event was an opportunity to share ideas among green teams in the County and meet with potential funders and collaborators from various organizations such as Chesapeake Bay Trust, Alice Ferguson Foundation, Neighborhood Design Center, etc. Overall, we felt like the event was a good one. Each of us had different conversations and at our November meeting we shared ideas worthy of follow-up. These include:

Neighborhood Design Center: Veronica spoke with NDC about designing a plan for the Mount Rainier circle plantings. The representative was interested in the project. **Veronica said she would follow up with the NDC contact to discuss.** The woman who presented for NDC was:

Rachel McNamara

Program Coordinator

Prince George's County Office

rmcnamara@ndc-md.org

301-779-6010

P.S. I've since asked Mike at Sustainable Maryland Certified for names and contacts that attended the Summit. He responded that he will get that out shortly.

Alice Ferguson Foundation: A couple folks connected with AFF. They are focused on litter education and working with schools. Joseph was interested in connecting Mount Rainier Elementary and Thomas Stone with AFF but needed contacts in the school. **Veronica said she had contact information to provide to Joseph.** Also Suzy Wald was mentioned as a POC from the PTA for Mount Rainier Elementary.

Chesapeake Bay Trust: MaryLee spoke with Natalia about the CBT stormwater grant that was available to municipalities that was due September 18. Mt Rainier did not apply. MaryLee was curious about what type of projects are eligible and Natalia was going to send more information because the posting is unavailable on the website. It seems like a good opportunity to pursue for next year. **MaryLee will follow up with Natalia for this information**

Other conversations at the Summit focused on recycling, composting programs, LED street lights. Take aways are that we are not alone with our struggles! There is a lot to learn from other municipalities that have already navigated some of the same issues.

Discuss how to move out on residential bin recycling analysis & proposal

One of the items on the GT's agenda and work plan has been better and larger bins for recycling. Bill has priced these out from \$40-70 per bin (not bulk pricing). Multiply this by 900 households in Mt Rainier and we are looking at an outlay of \$36,000. Veronica noted that this is not something the City is likely to be able to support without some match funding or grant to help support. Bill suggested phasing new bins over a couple years. Veronica, fresh from the trash bin debate, stated that that approach will be problematic b/c of communication and people not understanding why some folks get new bins and others don't. MaryLee, since the meeting looked around on line for grant opportunities and there is very little grant funding for this. In the short term the team still thinks it is worth putting together a proposal for the City's next budget cycle discussion to get them thinking and understand the cost savings over time.

Joseph noted he could mimic something similar to what he did for the composting analysis.

Once we get contacts from Mike, MaryLee is interested in reaching out to some of our bigger municipalities and get more data on their larger bins and cost saving over time.

Update on Website Project

The UMD team shared a draft schematic for the sustainability/environment tab for the City website. We agreed on Option 2 that they presented. MaryLee has since provided this feedback and furthering ideas to help guide them on categories.

Architectural Conservation Plan

At this point in the meeting the folks from MUTC and the Architectural Conservation Plan arrived so our meeting stopped. Bill and MaryLee stayed for the presentation and discussion on the ACP. This was actually pretty interesting. The linkage to the Green Team has a few angles: 1) How can we green our homes but still maintain the historical character? (e.g. solar panels); and 2) What makes our community special and adds to the historical character are trees. How can we preserve the tree lined streets and encourage trees as a feature on properties?; 3) Further, maintaining the historical character of our houses also means saving resources by restoring what is there vs buying something new. There were a lot of interesting discussions and it seems the product of this endeavor will be a pattern book with ideas and inspiration for property owners as well as guidance and best practices.