



Sustainability Advisory Committee “Green Team” Meeting Minutes

A Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting was held electronically on Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 5:30 pm via Zoom. In attendance were: Green Team members: Marina Feeser, Kaitlyn Grigsby-Hall, Elise Trelegan, Lisa Howard, Sara-elah Hoffman, and Matt Heim; City Staff: Alyssa Hastings; members of the Public: Matthias Pieplak, Ley Rideout, and Rachel Clausen

Discussion included:

1. Minutes from the December meeting were discussed. Marina moved to approve the minutes, Matt seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve the minutes.
2. Introduced some new members: Sara-elah and visitor Ley Rideout
3. Update from Matthias over sustainable lawns. Baywise program provides easy tips on how to make yard or garden more ecologically friendly, extension on UMD. Baywise offers a program to help assess yards using a “yard stick,” a great resource that would be useful to implement and collaborate on. Looking at 3 options: 1) “Yards for creation”- working with faith communities to challenge members to use newly learned practices at home (i.e. pollinators, native plants, etc.).
4. Mike offered suggestion to involve school groups in growing plants, participating in 3rd Friday, NFF. Matthias also added that the Baywise website has a great video.
5. Another option proposed is extending the Green Business certification to include “Yard Certification” for residential areas. The group continued to discuss ideas for rolling out a campaign or program collaborating with the UMD Master Gardener Program. Ginny R is open to provide resources and train individuals who could certify yards, potentially. Elise added that she has hesitation because the MG program serves as a barrier. Alyssa also discussed that the City can support efforts by offering educational communications on social media and in newsletters.
6. Transition to discussion led by Elise to talk through 2021 work plan. Elise briefly explained each topic in order to see where there is support. We covered education programs for WCBOE, Water Confidence Report to make it more accessible, and the possibility of holding a film screening or mini-film-fest.
7. Elise assigned our homework for the group to think about how we would like to see the remainder of our funds used (\$1851). Alyssa proposed an option: Helping to support the Edible Garden by adding a bench (\$900). Another consideration would be a team planting.
8. Running slightly past time, Marina shared results of her survey of plastic bag use. Plastic bag ban and petition currently running.
9. Kaitlyn moved, Matt seconded and the vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 6:35pm.

The next meeting will be **Wednesday, March 3rd, 2021 at 5:30 pm** held electronically via Zoom. The link to join the meeting will be posted on the agenda which can be found on the Green Team webpage.