



Sustainability Advisory Committee "Green Team" Meeting Minutes

A Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting was held via Zoom, Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 5:30pm. Members in attendance: Elise Trelegan, Noah Bressman, Charly Sager, Ley Rideout, Olivia Wackett. City staff in attendance: Dylan Laconich. Members of the public in attendance: Mollie Rudow, Catherine Skeeter, Catherine Beise, and Christine Maine.

Discussion:

1. Elise Trelegan opened the discussion by asking people to introduce themselves.
2. Elise Trelegan called for review of the meeting minutes from April 5. Ley Rideout moved to approve the minutes, Noah Bressman seconded the movement, the vote was unanimous.
3. Discussion moved into the suggested video sent to the green team by Charly Sager, "Whats the Rush? The Solution To the Biodiversity Crisis" by Doug Tallamy. Charly summed up the video into 6 points: Shrink the traditional grass lawn, have native plants for niche species, use yellow-light to avoid pests, remove invasives, avoid mosquito spray (as it kills everything), and let the leaves stay. Discussion about the video moved into awareness of certain documents created by guest, Catherine Beise, Master Gardener, documents were shown to be very informative, and was prompted to be discussed next meeting. Elise Trelegan asked the attendees if anyone would like to provide the next video or resource for the team to learn from. Dylan Laconich volunteered to provide a video.
4. Elise Trelegan moved the discussion to subcommittees. Mollie Rudow discussed the recycling subcommittee, which has not recently met, but will be created physical resources soon. Elise Trelegan spoke on "Get the Bag Out" and the progress made, several attendees spoke on potential locations, Dylan Laconich provided an update on the distribution of bags to community centers. Elise Trelegan asked the attendees if they would be willing to help an initiative to get posters to businesses for awareness, Catherine Beise, Ley Rideout, Noah Bressman, and Olivia Wackett, all volunteered to help Dylan Laconich get the posters out. Charly Sager had no update on the Sustainable Yards subcommittee. In Mike Angelot's absence the team briefly spoke about upcoming litter cleanups. Dylan Laconich gave an update on green business certification, progress is still pending website updates. Noah Bressman gave an update on the Fishing Tournament subcommittee, which is set to likely be July 23, successful collaborators and sponsors have been secured. Mollie Rudow inquired if the event could benefit from free fishing rods for the attendees to borrow, Noah Bressman was receptive to the idea.



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5. Dylan Laconich provided City updates pertaining to energy efficiency initiatives, largely involving infrastructure improvements.
6. Group updates pertained to upcoming events, Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake (IPC) are hosting a learning lab on May 4, at 7pm, Bay Day with Maryland Coastal Bays on May 7, Elise Trelegan invited Green Team members to join the Youth Environmental Action Summit on May 25, and several other events were discussed.
7. Noah Bressman motioned to adjourn, Charly Sager seconded, the vote was unanimous to adjourn at 6:30pm.

The next meeting is scheduled to be Wednesday May 31, 2023, at 5:30pm.