

## **Sustainability Advisory Committee “Green Team” Meeting Minutes**

A Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting was held at Schumaker Park, 1019 S Schumaker Dr, Salisbury, Maryland at 5:30pm on October 9, 2024.

**Members in attendance:** Elise Trelegan (Chair), Charly Sager (Vice Chair), Noha Yousif, Catherine Skeeter, Ley Rideout, Olivia Wackett

**Members of the public in attendance:** Christina Maine, Dylan Maine

**City staff in attendance:** Nick Voitiuc

**City Council in attendance:** None

### **Introductions, pre-read recap.**

Elise asked the group if anyone had read the pre read she had sent out about the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES).

Most attendees had read the article and viewed it favorably. The consensus was that it was driving towards educating more people in environmental sciences and that that was a good thing.

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

Charly motioned to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, Noha seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

### **III. General Discussion**

Meadows Committee discussed the recent project to begin installation of a new urban meadow through the City’s Urban Meadow program. Specifics of the activity were described namely pinning down the solarizing material on the homeowner’s front lawn. There was discussion of planting the meadow occurring in late October or early November. The group discussed how the native plantings would not initially include grasses as grasses can overtake the wildflowers and that grass plantings would be added later.

Transportation Committee discussed how it would be helpful to perform a survey of the public, specifically people who bicycle, to determine what their needs and interests are.

The recent pre-Folk Festival cleanup was discussed. There were 10-15 people at the event and a large, full bag of trash was picked up by the group around the Unity Square area radiating out. There was discussion of how the committee’s goal was to perform one pick up activity per month.

There was talk of utilizing social media to execute information campaigns to folks in the city to encourage greener behavior. One specific topics that was brought up as being appropriate was advertising for people to storm proof their trash containers to prevent trash from blowing out into

making its way into the river. Nick discussed engaging with the City's social media staff and also trying to create a dummy facebook account to try to log in to the Green Team facebook account to eventually take over advertising events through it.

Next month's clean up activity was discussed. There was talk of doing it downtown again but then it was suggested that the cleanup could be done somewhat in concert with the opening of the new Truitt Street Community Center. It was decided that the cleanup would be scheduled for 9am on the Saturday morning following the grand opening (October 19).

There was talk of the Education subcommittee struggling to keep active and discussion of whether it made sense to keep the subcommittee alive if it wasn't going to be particularly active.

There were questions from the committee about the City hiring a replacement environmental planner to fill the position left open when Dylan left. Nick discussed the fact that they were still looking at different options about how to utilize the slot and whether there may be benefit in modifying the structure of the position such as possibly converting it to part time. Elise noted the importance of having a full time environmental person, Nick noted that getting the substance of the environmental work done is the most important thing, but acknowledged that the optics of having an environmental staffer were important, too.

Nick made a comment about suspension of the Comprehensive Plan consultant due to their poor performance. Committee members were surprised and concerned, Nick noted that this would give the City a better chance to better incorporate input from folks like the Green Team as the City continued to progress the Plan.

#### **IV. Budget**

Nick informed the team that utilized approximately \$70 of the Green Team's \$2000 budget to purchase magnet fishing equipment that could be used in a future cleanup activity at the river. **V. Motion to**

#### **Adjourn:**

Olivia motioned to adjourn, Ley seconded, and the vote was unanimous. The meeting concluded at 6:30 pm EST.