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

A Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting was held at 125 N Division St, Council Chambers, Salisbury, Maryland at 5:30pm on November 20, 2024.

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

# Members of the public in attendance: Christina Maine, Dylan Maine, Taylor Swanson

**City staff in attendance:** Nick Voitiuc, Tom Stevenson

**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 climate crisis.

Several read it. Some takeaways were that “sustainability” can be a red herring; that the analogy of the environment to the human body was informative; that “changing the climate” to protect it of great scale as to be an unthinkable, yet we can have done so already (in the opposite direction); and that we may not always have time to think through the causes of climate problems and so we should spend our limited time focusing on solutions.

# Approval of Minutes

Ley motioned to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, Olivia seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

# General Discussion

David Burt was introduced as a newly confirmed member. He discussed his experience, particularly with sanitation.

Meadows Committee reminded of the prep work done for the meadow project around late September and that Christina had mentioned that Karen Cooper of Lower Shore Land Trust had committed to providing seeds. Discussion of set back requirements, City noted current ten foot setback both keeps meadows from spilling out into sidewalk and also prevents installation over City’s ten foot utility easement but that it can be looked at again. Mention of bamboo ordinance and that City would share a copy with the committee when available. Talk of expanding beyond meadows to sustainable gardens and yards, which could require additional legislation.

Noha brought up rain gardens to mitigate flooding issues, brought up Fitzwater area. Tom mentioned that flooding concerns may be addressed in the development project going on at Lot 30. Nick stated that the City had installed effective nuisance flooding mitigation around Fitzwater in recent years and was actively investigating EJ grant opportunities to similarly mitigate flooding in the Lake Street area.

Transportation Committee mentioned desire to survey City residents about their access to bike paths and sustainable transportation. There was also talk of polling people downtown about what people need and would like to see in terms of transportation as alternatives to cars.

David mentioned lack of public EV charging stations. Mattias mentioned the chargers in the public lot in Newtown, Taylor noted that there are chargers at SU, too. David said he was specifically interested in the City installing chargers in the Fruitland area but folks pointed out to him that Fruitland was a different city entirely. Tom and Nick noted that the City is exploring EV charger grant opportunities.

Christina M mentioned concerns with litter on Brick Kiln Road by the dump and suggested a police presence be installed to monitoring for folks utilizing the dump failing to cover their trash loads as they ride out there. Olivia suggested incorporating messages about pollution prevention, such as for situations like this, into social media advertising for cleanups. Christina M suggested there could be advertising or contests in schools about not littering. Suggestions that there could be coordination between the Litter Committee and SU to try to achieve some synergy on this front.

Education Committee mentions not a lot has been done lately. Mattais suggested that Education could organize each subcommittee goals and accomplishments for the year. Also suggested scheduling social media posts over a period of time so that posts would be sure to happen. Suggested each subcommittee come up with content for these posts.

Desire expressed for the City sustainability website to be revisited so as to include all available City sustainability info and resources. Dylan had previously worked on this and perhaps it could be worked on again. There was interest in sustainability GIS layers; Nick mentioned he would look into this but that the City was maintaining a great many GIS layers and many needed updating and GIS resources were already committed to a bunch of them.

Olivia suggested expanding the Litter Committee into waste management to include community composting.

There was a question about the tree cover project and whether it was stalled, Nick mentioned that the City was in the process of getting it up and running by reviewing old documents of Dylan’s.

Election was held for the Chair of the Committee. Charly was the only nominee. Mattais motioned to vote on her as Chair, Olivia seconded. Charly was elected unanimously. Noah was nominated for Vice chair. Olivia motioned to vote on electing him, Noha seconded, and he was elected unanimously.

City updates: Nick mentioned that key environmental initiatives ongoing or in planning stages include tree planting projects, brownfield remediation projects (Lake Street), and flooding mitigation projects (Lake Street). Tom mentioned that the Mayor is seeking $500,000 from the delegation for tire recycling efforts and soap refill stations.

Elise mentioned being pleased with Andy K’s recent comments regarding the City’s Comprehensive Plan update, delivered at a recent City Council meeting.

Next month’s meeting was discussed, with talk of arranging a fun team building activity rather than a typical meeting.

At 6:29 Noah made a motion to adjourn, David seconded, and the meeting adjourned.