



Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes 10/01/2025

A Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting was held at the Schumaker Park Pavilion

Members in attendance: Charly Sager, Elise Trelegan, Catherine Skeeter, Christina Williams, Noah Bressman.

Members of the public in attendance: Sarah Yamakawa, Christine Maine

Staff in attendance: Zack White

City Council in attendance: None

I. Introductions, recap.

Charly had the group introduce themselves, and share a favorite fall activity.

II. Approval of Minutes

Noah motioned to approve the minutes from last months meeting. Christina seconded

III. Discussion

Charly let the group know that a letter was sent to the City Planner about including downtown density in the Comprehensive Plan. The group felt that density should have been mentioned more in the focus group results and wants to make sure the topic is included in the final plan.

The group discussed meadows and the idea of creating a more cohesive plan for their pollinator garden efforts. They talked about working with local nonprofits and other organizations to start a campaign that could extend beyond the City of Salisbury. Charly noted that the effort should have consistent branding so that people can easily recognize it.

Charly mentioned a grant opportunity through Sustainable Maryland that could help fund this effort. The grant offers up to \$20,000 and could be used for things like website development, signage, and demonstration projects. She noted that this could be a great way for the entire Green Team to collaborate on one project and boost participation

Elise mentioned that the City would need to be the one to apply for the grant, but the Green Team was interested in writing the proposal and taking the lead on carrying out the project.

Zack said he would look into the process for applying for the grant but reiterated that City staff may not have the capacity to take on additional projects. He emphasized that full participation from the Green Team will be important for the project to be successful.

Christine talked about a litter cleanup she has scheduled this month at Schumaker Park. She mentioned considering a different location since Schumaker didn't seem to be in need of a cleanup. She also mentioned reaching out to City Council about them attending litter cleanups, and is awaiting a response.

Christine inquired about the status of the City's Adopt-A-Road program that was recently pushed through legislation. Zack had no updates, but said he would reach out to the appropriate sources to find some information.

Noah gave an update on the PFAS testing initiative. He explained that funds allocated for collecting tissue samples from fish are currently frozen due to the federal government shutdown. He also mentioned that the USGS has invited Salisbury to join a cooperative unit with various organizations to help direct funding toward public environmental projects.

City Updates

The group asked Zack for an update on the Tree Planting project. He mentioned the challenges of getting the trees planted and cared for over the first year but noted that he currently has a few potential plantings in some neighborhoods. The group suggested additional locations and shared contacts for places that could benefit from extra tree cover.