



Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes 1/7/2026

A Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting was held at the Government Office Building Room 306 at 125 N. Division St.

Members in attendance: Charly Sager, Matthias Pieplak, Christina Williams, Elise Trelegan, Sarah Yamakawa, Catherine Skeeter

Members of the public in attendance: Karen Cooper, Christine Maine, Dylan Maine, Rose Rivera, Brooke Orr, Mike Angelot

Staff in attendance: Travis Huff, Nicholas Voitiuc

City Council in attendance: None

Call to Order & Introductions

Meeting called to order by Elise. Attendees introduced themselves, shared pronouns, affiliation with Green Team, and priority environmental interests for 2026. Key themes included pollinator habitats/meadows, litter cleanups, habitat restoration, and sustainable initiatives.

Approval of December 2025 Minutes

- Minutes were distributed at the meeting.
 - Amendment noted to correct seconder names.
 - **Motion:** Adopt December 2025 minutes as amended.
 - **Moved by:** Charly Sager
 - **Seconded by:** Matthias Pieplak
 - **Vote:** Approved unanimously.
-

City Updates (Travis Huff)

- **North Prong Park:** \$500,000 DNR grant approved by City Council for contaminated soil removal and cleanup.
 - **Stormwater:** Trash nets installed on select outfalls to pilot litter interception before entering the river.
 - **Staffing:** New Deputy Director, Judy Koontz (Mechanical Engineer, PE, former NASA).
 - **City Council Liaison:** New council representative assigned to Green Team: Melissa Holland.
 - **Sustainable Maryland Grant:** No update yet; staff following up with contact.
-

Draft Comprehensive Plan

- The City has released its Draft Comprehensive Plan.
- Initial review indicates inclusion of Environmental Sustainability and water/MS4 sections.
- Noted items potentially missing or reduced emphasis: density, bike lanes; though rail trail still included.
- Members encouraged to review and provide feedback.

Advisory Committee Chairs Meeting

- City administration convening meeting with all advisory committee chairs (Green Team scheduled Friday, January 9, 2026).
- Purpose: discuss committee roles, bylaws, appointment processes, expectations, and coordination.
- Elise circulated a draft accomplishments summary for 2025; members suggested adding metrics (e.g., number of litter cleanups).

2025 – Subcommittee Year in Review

Education & Outreach (Matthias Pieplak)

- Hosted Green Third Friday (Earth Month) with partner booths and activities (e.g., SU TRASH-ion Show).
- Attempted to expand social media/online outreach; limited progress due to access and logistics.

Meadows & Sustainable Yards (Karen Cooper)

- Designed and installed a demonstration meadow (Habitat homeowner site).
- Meadow intended as a model for residents.
- Collaborative Sustainable Maryland grant proposal submitted with partners (Lower Shore Land Trust, Fenix Youth Project, Habitat for Humanity, Library, YEA, others).

Litter Cleanups & Community Stewardship (Christine Maine)

- Approximately monthly cleanups (approx. 12) with expansion into new neighborhoods.

Waste Management & Infrastructure (Dave Burt and Elise Trelegan)

- Ongoing coordination with city departments on waste management and infrastructure (summary credited to Dave).

Sustainable Transportation (Elise Trelegan)

- Downtown employee commute survey administered.
- Findings shared with Bike & Pedestrian Advisory Committee.
- Public safety and infrastructure awareness identified as key issues.
- Bike-friendly merchant program feedback collected.
- Participation in Bike to Work Week outreach.

2026 Planning Framework

- Decision to align planning cycle with City budget; focus set through August/September 2026, with annual planning shifting to fall.
- Proposal to consolidate into three subcommittees of four people to improve focus and momentum.

2026 Subcommittee Creation

Members reviewed the Environmental Resources & Sustainability objectives and implementation strategies of the Draft Comprehensive Plan and selected their top priorities to create 2026 subcommittees.

Two subcommittee topics were chosen and community outreach/communication will be a cross-cutting concept across both subcommittees.

- Pollinator Habitat Subcommittee – Subcommittee Lead: Elise Trelegan; Outreach/Communications Lead: Brooke Orr
- Community Gardens - Subcommittee Lead: Christina Williams; Outreach/Communications Lead: Karen Cooper

Adjournment

At 6:35 pm Christina Williams motioned to adjourn the meeting. Matthias Pieplak seconded the motion and the meeting ended.