

Committee for Better Environment – DRAFT
January 4, 2016
Davis Hall

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Suchitra Balachandran	X	
Matt Dernoga	X	
Karen Garvin	X	
Susan Keller	X	
Janis Oppelt	X	
Kennis Termini	X	
Donna Weene	X	

Guests Present: Steve Beavers, City Liaison; Alan Hew; Sheryl DeWalt, Contract Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by Ms. Oppelt.

1. Review and approval 11/23/15 meeting minutes

Ms. Balachandran made a motion to accept the November 23, 2015 minutes. Ms. Weene seconded the motion. All in favor; no opposed.

2. Fencing Ordinance Recommendation

The recommendation letter on fencing was sent to City Council through the APC. It will be presented at the January 7, 2016 meeting. Several committee members asked why the fencing recommendation had to go through APC. Mr. Hew stated that the recommendation needs APC endorsement prior to City Council reviewing and potentially endorsing.

3. Ongoing Business

Ms. Oppelt reminded Ms. Balachandran to send out the most recent power point presentation on Pay As You Throw program.

The movie "Tapped" was shown. Approximately 10-15 people attended. There was a good discussion after the movie. Both water bottles and 2016 Sierra calendars were handed out.

A motion was made to spend \$50 on refreshments for the showing of the movie "Inhabit" by Ms. Weene. Ms. Termini seconded the motion. All in favor; no opposed.

Further discussion took place on the rubberized playground floor. Ms. Balachandran is willing to speak with representatives from Montgomery County and suggested that perhaps CBE could host a joint meeting. Ms. Oppelt made a motion to sponsor a meeting on the rubberized playground floor with other interested parties. Ms. Termini seconded the motion. All in favor; no opposed.

Discussed Quiet Lawns initiative. It seems to be clear that further education of the public needs to happen, perhaps by updating the current brochure and placing information on the Municipal Scene. Ms. Garvin has agreed to write the first tip about noise ordinance for the Municipal Scene. A motion was made by Mr. Dernoga that CBE will provide a tip for each Municipal Scene. Ms. Oppelt seconded the motion. All in favor; no opposed. This will become a standing item on the monthly CBE agenda also.

4. **New Business**

Ben Fischler has agreed to do a composting workshop in the spring. The committee is targeting mid-March to early April, preferably on a Saturday morning.

There is potential for a redo of the Green Awards. Councilmember Brennan wants to do a litter awareness campaign and is suggesting a contest to design a logo. Prince Georges County recently hired a Litter Reduction Coordinator and perhaps this person could partner with College Park and the CBE. The committee will review the information from Councilmember Brennan and discuss at the January 28 meeting. (see attached)

A new doggie depot station has been requested for Odessa at 52nd Avenue. Ms. Oppelt made a motion to purchase a new doggie depot station, not to exceed \$650, for installation at Odessa at 52nd Avenue. Ms. Weene seconded the motion. All in favor; no opposed. A reminder that if a doggie depot station is needed in College Park to contact Ms. Termini.

Good Neighbor Day is scheduled for April 2. Weeding of the permaculture will take place from 9am-1pm. Ms. Oppelt will coordinate the efforts.

5. **Next meeting date**

The next meeting date will be Monday, January 25 at 7:00pm in Davis Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

Recorded and submitted by Sheryl DeWalt, Contract Secretary

“Keep College Park Clean” Campaign*

*This slogan is a placeholder. The designer of the logo and campaign can create their own unique phrase (i.e. Trash Free CP, Leash the Litter)

The City of College Park boasts many features that contribute to environmental beauty and stewardship, from the many parks and trail to the services provided by the local government, university, and nonprofit organizations. Touted as a Tree City USA, Sustainable Maryland Certified, UMD Arboretum and Botanical Garden... the city has much to take pride in and preserve. The city’s Committee for a Better Environment, many student/resident environmental activists, and regular city programs like Good Neighbor Day ensure that attention is paid to the treatment of our environment, both in natural and urban settings.

The Paint Branch Trail connects areas from the furthest north areas to the furthest south, by ways of the Trolley Trail. Along the ways, pedestrians and bicyclists enjoy city and county parks, waterways, and commercial areas in our downtown. The Paint Branch, Little Paint Branch, Indian Creek, and Lake Artemesia waterways connect through our city, flowing south to the Northeast Branch of the Anacostia River and ultimately the Potomac.

With consideration to the newly adopted 2015 Sustainability Plan, the city will no doubt continue to advance environmental stewardship through strategic measures that will Keep College Park Clean.

PROBLEM

Despite the many good qualities, the City of College Park struggles with environmental issues. Most notably, our city struggles with litter, which contributes to blight, clogged sewers, threats to wildlife, pollution in the Chesapeake Bay, and diminished property values. Litter is dispersed by wind, wildlife, and pedestrians.

Opportunities to appropriately dispose of waste in our city are not consistent in municipal areas. Waste receptacles are not evenly distributed in areas that have high pedestrian traffic (i.e. along the Trolley Trail in Old Town). Furthermore, most trash receptacles are open to the elements, which means that wind and wildlife can easily disperse appropriately disposed-of waste because it is not contained properly (i.e. littered north College Park playgrounds) . Finally, the majority of receptacles in our city are for waste only and do not provide an opportunity to recycle. Without the opportunity to recycle, countless recyclables end up in the standard waste stream and in landfills instead of recycling plants.

With consideration to the growing development in our city, College Park is in a position where greater pedestrian traffic will result in increased litter and a greater need to educate and provide appropriate accommodations for waste producers.

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

We can continue to organize and clean littered areas as we’ve done year after year, but we must also address why wind, wildlife, and pedestrians contribute to the litter problem in the first place. Primarily, the issues with litter can be remedied through greater awareness, promotion of behavioral changes, and the placement of appropriately designed waste receptacles. Pedestrians need the opportunity to make good choices with their waste. To achieve this, we must



Picking up trash, December 27, 2015, on the Trolley Trail between Paint Branch Parkway & College Avenue. One trash bag filled in two blocks.

come together as residents of the city to identify solutions and commit to play a role in promoting this change. Secondly, our city services can assist with the goal to Keep College Park Clean, through more proactive fining and trash pick ups.

"Keep College Park Clean" Campaign

Launch a competition city-wide for a logo design that will be the brand for the "Keep College Park Clean" initiative. The designer can use any phrase, word, and design that evokes the need for environmental awareness and stewardship. The city should consider whether or not to pay a prize for the winner as an incentive (use community block grant money). Consideration should be given to a diverse group of designers: university students, children, seniors, and other residents of College Park.

- 1st Place - \$250
- 2nd Place - \$100
- 3rd Place - \$50

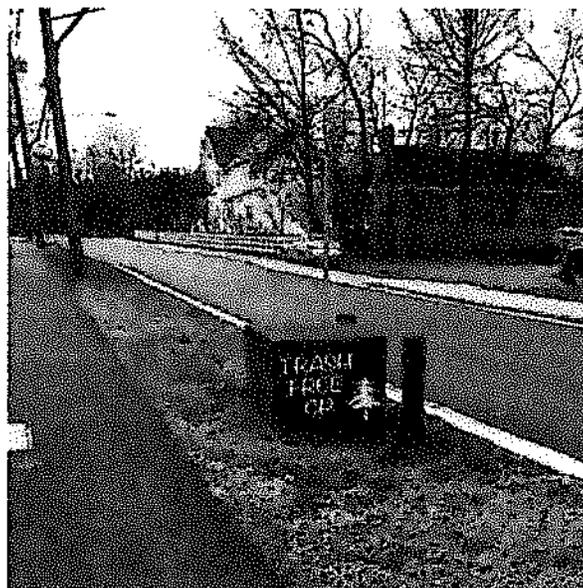
The logo should then be paired with language that gives direction on proper waste disposal and our individual impacts on the environment. The campaign should be advertised through the city, the partnership, and the university (via Diamondback) to get a wide audience.

First consideration should be given to CBE to work with staff to design, launch, and run the campaign. CBE may also have funds to help support the competition in lieu of the aforementioned community block grant money.

Branding

Our desire to Keep College Park Clean needs visibility.

- Websites and advertising.
- Consideration should be given to the cross promotion with the pedestrian safety initiative. The two issues go hand in hand with pedestrian awareness - with safety and the environment
- The city might also consider stenciling the logo along the trail on the path and on objects along the path - but should be careful to not promote graffiti.

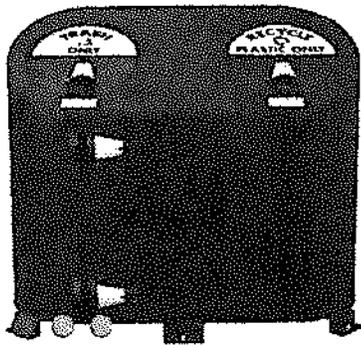


Council should advise staff to adopt a standard of receptacles for both urban and more natural settings (defining those boundaries)

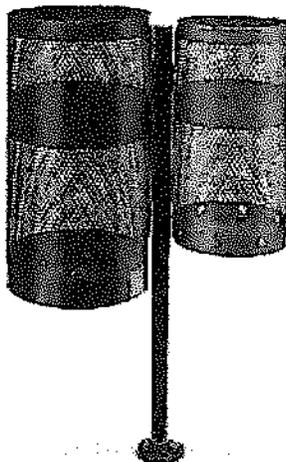
Commercial Areas = Victor Stanley Receptacles with waste and recycling together. These receptacles require greater maintenance because they are in high pedestrian areas, they are exposed to wind and wildlife and the quality of these receptacles reflect the cleanliness of our commercial areas.



Park Areas = Pilot Rock (RJ Thomas Manufacturing) model #BPR2-72, brown color. These receptacles require less maintenance because their in slightly less pedestrian areas, they shield the waste from wind and wildlife, and trash is generally well contained and not left visible (unless opened or overflowing).



Bus stops = Pole mounted receptacles (with a lid) that include recycling. These need to be maintained the most because they are in very high pedestrian and transportation areas and they are incredibly visible.



Council should ask staff/CBE to develop a campaign around Keeping College Park Clean

Consideration should be given to prize money

Council should commit to budgeting the purchase of trash receptacles

Approx. \$1,500/receptacle

Identify locations for new receptacles

College Park Woods Neighborhood Park

Hollywood Recreation Center

Hollywood Playground

Davis Playground

Duval Field & Playground

Lakeland (2-3, including bus stop on Paint Branch)

Paint Branch Trail (TBD - Coordinate with MNCPPC)

Old Town (5)

Sent letter to and work with MNCPPC and developers on consistence in the standards

Expand the initiative to include issues like fertilizer and pesticide use, household chemicals like Draino, graffiti, verizon telephone lines, dog waste, utility markings, etc...

Proposed locations in Old Town. Other maps to be developed...

