

**Committee for a Better Environment**  
**Davis Hall, College Park**  
**June 30, 2014**  
**7:00 PM**

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Suchitra Balachandran	X	
Gemma Evans	X	
Benjamin Mellman		X
Janis Oppelt	X	
Kennis Termini	X	
Donna Weene	X	
Macrina Xavier		X

Guests Present: Steve Beavers, City Liaison, Denise M. Palmer, Contract Secretary, Christiane Williams

**1. Review and approve 6/2/14 meeting minutes**

The committee reviewed the minutes from the June 2, 2014 (May) meeting and Ms. Oppelt made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Ms. Evans seconded it and the motion was unanimous.

**2. Financial report**

Mr. Beavers briefed the committee on the budget for the new fiscal year and reported that CBE has over \$4,000 left in its budget.

**3. Ongoing Business**

**a. Future workshop planning – bats, composting, rain barrels, native plants, canning and preserves**

Ms. Termini suggested purchasing 12 bat houses for the upcoming workshop scheduled for Saturday, August 2, 2014. Mr. Beavers reported that they have been ordered from this year's budget, but the number has been reduced to 10 because there was a shipping fee of \$75 which brought the total slightly under \$600. Ms. Termini requested \$60 for refreshments at the workshop. Ms. Evans made a motion to approve \$60 for refreshments for the workshop and Ms. Weene seconded the motion. The motion was unanimous. Ms. Kennis will email information to Ms. Oppelt with short insert on bats.

Ms. Evans reported that the compost bins have been ordered for the Composting Workshop and Public Works will store them upon arrival. She suggested a form (pledge sheet)

where residents agree to use the compost bin for a number of years and Ms. Balachandran suggested a survey to get feedback from the residents who receive the compost bins.

Mr. Beavers has contacted Debbie Weller from the County about being the presenter for the Rain Barrel Workshop perhaps in early September.

**b. Permaculture Update – (discuss upcoming council session, etc.)**

Ms. Evans opened discussion of the permaculture project and the committee discussed potential problems and concerns. Mr. Beavers suggested that the committee put together a paper (fact sheet) for the next council work session and indicated that it is currently on their agenda. He would need the fact sheet by this Wednesday (July 2). He discussed it with Brenda Alexander and it was suggested that the planting would require approximately 19 hours of volunteer time. Ms. Balachandran raised the question of how to make our concerns known to council. Ms. Evans suggested sending an email to Mayor and Council. Mr. Beavers read the email that was received from Council on permaculture. Ms. Evans agreed to put together a fact sheet with 12 bullets and will send it to the committee first for suggestions and finally will send an email to council expressing interest. The permaculture item is listed as #6 on the council work session.

There was discussion on the Neighborhood Design Center. Mr. Beavers downloaded their app and indicated they have a person on their staff that is familiar with permaculture and they also have a graphic artist. He passed the information around for the committee to review.

**c. Business recycling (discuss upcoming council session, etc.)**

Ms. Evans indicated that letters will be mailed out next week to 400 plus businesses who participated in the recycling survey within College Park. There were discussions on how to update the city code. Ms. Evans thought that it would be a good idea to honor Ballard Troy by naming something (the grant, etc) in his honor and for his tireless efforts on the committee.

**4. Recap/discuss events – Urban Ore presentation, Forested site visit**

Ms. Evans reported the Forested site was very good and that she, Ms. Oppelt and Ms. Balachandran enjoyed it. Ms. Balachandran suggested putting the material on the CBE website and she will forward it to Mr. Beavers. There was discussion of having a second site visit and they would consider having the speaker return as well.

**5. New Business**

**a. Environmental Finance Center – Stormwater assessment project**

Ms. Evans reported that she, Ms. Oppelt and Mr. Beavers spoke to a representative from the Environmental Finance Center concerning the impact of storm water on people's health. The Center is seeking support to form focus groups on the topic. The next Green Team meeting is scheduled for July 31 and Mr. Beavers hopes to have a ranger from Park and Planning in attendance. This item will be discussed at an upcoming CBE meeting.

**b. Other topics?**

Ms. Oppelt reported that she will have the budget for printing at CBE's next meeting and she will bring brochures to the meeting. She will order library books from the new budget also.

Ms. Termini reported that the area between the service road and Rhode Island Avenue is always moist (area between the thrift store and the new church). She believes it may be an

appropriate site for a rain garden. She would also like to find a “naturalist” from Patuxent to propose a workshop on wild life.

## **6. Other discussion**

Ms. Evans reported that on the pesticides issue that the City of College Park does currently spray for mosquitoes. Ms. Balachandran recently received emails from Julie Taddeo and Catherine Cummings who were the guests that gave presentation on pesticides from Takoma Park. She will follow up with them and discuss updates at upcoming meeting.

Ms. Evans recapped upcoming dates: July 8, 2014 Council Work Session; July 9 Tree and Landscape Meeting; July 16 Sustainability Meeting; and July 21 Green Team Meeting.

Mr. Beavers needs all updates for the CBE website as soon as possible.

The next CBE meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2014 at Davis Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Oppelt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Evans seconded the motion and it was unanimous. There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Denise M. Palmer, Contract Secretary.