

**Committee for a Better Environment
Davis Hall, College Park
July 28, 2014
7:00 PM**

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

Also Present: Alan Hew, Councilmember; Denise Mitchell, Councilmember;
Bill Gardiner, Assistant City Manager; Steve Beavers, City Liaison; and Denise M. Palmer,
Contract Secretary

1. Review and approve 6/30/14 meeting minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Evans and seconded by Ms. Termini to adopt the minutes of June 30, 2014. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Financial report

Mr. Beavers gave the CBE financial report: CBE has \$11,000 available in its budget at the beginning of the new fiscal year.

3. Ongoing Business

a. Future workshops planning –bats, rain barrels, canning and preserves

Ms. Termini reported that the bat workshop is scheduled for Saturday, August 1, 2014 at 10 am. Currently there are 5-6 people registered to attend.

Mr. Beavers and Brenda Alexander are considering holding the rain barrel workshop at Davis Hall. No firm date has been set at this time. Water collected in the rain barrel that will be installed at Davis Hall can be used to water the plants in front of the building.

The canning and preserves workshop is currently on hold and will be rescheduled in the future. Mr. Hew suggest holding a compost workshop.

b. Permaculture

The City Council approved a resolution to install a pilot permaculture project along the trolley train in the Berwyn neighborhood of College Park. CBE pledged to provide up to \$6,400 from their FY 2015 budget for the pilot phase of the permaculture project as well as volunteer support for regular maintenance and weeding efforts. They are moving forward with the signage. The committee discussed hiring Lincoln Smith from Forested to consult on the preliminary planning. Mr. Smith's fee is not to exceed \$1,200 (20 hours x \$60 an hour) up to 20 hours of work between now and the planting date. Ms. Evans made a motion and seconded by Ms. Weene to pay an additional \$1,200 for additional work by Mr. Smith.

Mr. Beavers passed around a copy of the list of possible plants. October 4, 2014 is the preparation date where the grass will be removed, and the area will be marked off. Oct. 11, 2014 is the planting day. Mr. Beavers estimates that 25 volunteers will be needed. Nicole Korvath is a volunteer from University of Maryland and will be contacted to help organize student volunteers. October 18, 2014 is the rain date. Time for the work in all cases will be 9 am to 1 pm. Mr. Beavers will advertise the volunteer needs in the Municipal Scene.

c. Business recycling

The recycling brochures were mailed to College Park businesses in mid July. No applications have been received as of today's date. Ms. Evans inquired if CBE wants to make code changes to reflect current practices. Mr. Gardiner suggested that College Park follow County legislation on recycling for businesses. Councilmember Mitchell suggested that CBE write a letter to Council setting forth its recommendations.

d. Books

All children's books about the environment for the College Park Community Library will be purchased from the new fiscal year budget.

4. New Business

Ms. Termini reported standing water in an area between the service road and Rhode Island Avenue near the thrift store and the new church and suggested that the City plant a rain garden. The committee discussed where information on this possibility could be found. One member recommended that Debbie Weller could make referrals, and Ms. Termini said she will call Brenda Alexander to see what opportunities are there.

Mr. Beavers gave an update on bioswale and an update on the Green Team's interest in developing a community garden. He has prepared a draft survey for City residents to find out what neighborhoods may be interested in a community garden. Consideration would be given to the neighborhood with the most interest and willingness to take care of the garden. The survey is scheduled to go out next week and Mr. Beavers indicated he would like to see the process wrapped up by the end of August.

5. Other discussion

a. Sustainability Summit

Ms. Evans gave a report on the sustainability summit that was held at City Hall.

Ms. Evans proposed that CBE draft a letter to Council to bring the recycling code up to current practices and that the County considers recycling for businesses only. A motion was

made by Ms. Oppelt and seconded by Ms. Weene to draft these letters to Council. The motion passed unanimously.

A wrap- of the tasks needed to be accomplished include: forward to Mr. Beaver the wording for the permaculture pilot planting project volunteers; CBE draft letters to Council be circulated amongst the Committee for final approval; and Ms. Termini to contact Brenda Alexander on bioswale matters.

6. Next meeting date – 8/25/14

The next CBE meeting is scheduled for August 25, 2014 at Davis Hall at 7 pm.

Ms. Oppelt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Evans seconded the motion and it was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Denise M. Palmer, Contract Secretary.