

**Committee for a Better Environment
Davis Hall, College Park
August 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	

Guests Present: Steve Beavers, City Liaison, Council Members: Patrick Wojahn, Alan Hew, and Fazlul Kabir; Denise M. Palmer, Contract Secretary, Vicky Hageman, Tom Mooney

1. Review and approval 7/28/14 meeting minutes

The minutes from the July 27, 2014 meeting were approved with revisions by a unanimous vote.

2. Financial Report

Mr. Beavers presented the Financial Report to the committee.

3. Ongoing Business

a. Possible Rain Garden

Ms. Termini has been working with Council Members Kabir and Wojahn on the idea for the rain garden. The city has applied for green street grants and one from the Chesapeake Trust. Some ideas of how to pay for it will be to tap into funds available from the County. Ms. Hageman volunteered to look into the possibility of the Department of the Environment looking at the site to see if it is suitable for a rain garden. We will follow up at the next meeting to discuss funding for the rain garden.

b. Rain Barrel workshop – rain barrels for give aways and installation at Davis Hall.

Mr. Beavers gave an update regarding the installation of a rain barrel at Davis Hall. Ms. Termini made a motion to approve \$230 for a rain barrel at Davis Hall. Ms. Weene seconded the motion and it was unanimous.

c. Permaculture project (graphics, signage, plants, event planning)

Mr. Beavers reported there were no new updates from the Neighborhood Design Center. Sample logos were circulated to the committee. Brenda Alexander has ordered plants. Council Member Hew suggested having a table at College Park Day to have volunteers sign up. Mr.

Beavers reported that Saturday, October 4th is the date for the grass removal and site preparation, October 11 is the date for planting, and October 18th is the rain date for planting.

d. Business recycling

Ms. Evans asked Council members present whether they had any news to report. Council Member Wojahn reported there is an update to the recycling code and the County requirement is that all residential, multi-family, and businesses must recycle. We may only need to pass the County code. He also reported that the recycling report was well received, and there will be a resolution to establish recycling as a full committee.

e. Books

Ms. Oppelt will order books for the College Park Community Library.

4. New Business

a. City-wide info distribution

Ms. Evans mentioned that CBE will not be contributing anything to City packets distributed to residents.

b. Purchase supplies for workshops? Camera, coffee urn

Ms. Evans indicated that she had received a request from Ms. Termini for CBE to purchase a coffee maker and a camera to be used at CBE workshops. Mr. Beavers will check to see if the City has a camera that CBE can use. Council Member Hew has a coffee urn that can be donated to CBE.

c. College Park Day 9/27/14

Ms. Oppelt gave a report on College Park Day indicating there are brochures, brochure stands, and mesh bags for giveaways and CBE will have a sign-up sheet to gather names and email addresses for new members, volunteers, etc. Council Member Wojahn reported that there will be a voter registration table. Ms. Oppelt received a quote from Kinkos for \$150 for 100 copies of a CBE brochure, and we currently have five brochures that should be printed for College Park Day. Ms. Evans suggested Minute Men Press may be more cost effective. Ms. Evans made a motion to approve up to \$750 for printing of brochures for CBE. Ms. Weene seconded the motion and it was unanimous.

d. Dark Skies initiative

Ms. Evans gave report on the Dark Skies initiative. Ms. Termini will research it to see if the University of Maryland students may be interested.

5. Other discussion, next meeting date 9/22/14

Mr. Beavers gave an update on the community garden and indicated he received 170 responses to the survey. The majority of the responses wanted the garden to be organic without pesticides. The final results will come out the third Monday in September at the Green Team Meeting.

Council Member Hew suggested that those who attended the Composting Workshop and those that built their own composter could provide pictures of them. Ms. Evans requested that Council Members Hew and Wojahn send notices out on ListServe requesting pictures of compost bins be sent to CBE.

Council Member Hew also suggested permeable paving could be a topic for an upcoming workshop.

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 8:55 p.m. The next CBE meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2014 at Davis Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Denise M. Palmer, Contract Secretary.