

**Committee for a Better Environment
Council Chambers
City Hall, College Park
April 1, 2013
7:00 PM**

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Suchitra Balachandran	X	
Gemma Evans	X	
Alan Hew	X	
Stephen Jascourt	X	
Benjamin Mellman	X	
Janis Oppelt	X	
Kennis Termini	X	
Ballard Troy		<u>X</u>
Donna Weene	X	
Richard Williamson		<u>X</u>
Macrina Xavier		<u>X</u>

Guests Present: Jonathan Brown, City Liaison, Denise M. Palmer, Contract Secretary, Fazlul Kabir, Council Member

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

1. Sustainability Fair (more clarification?)

The Committee discussed the presentation made by James Jalondoni of the University of Maryland at CBE's February 25 meeting for sponsoring the food for the event and the Committee decided not to fund the food for the event because it will be a self-funded event.

2. Review of minutes from Feb 25, 2013 meeting

It was agreed that Ms. Oppelt would email the draft minutes to the Committee members for any additional revisions and the revised minutes from the February 25, 2013 meeting will be approved at the next meeting scheduled for April 22, 2013.

3. Summary of compost workshop and status of Eco-City Farm trip

Ms. Balachandran reported there were 52 people in attendance at the compost workshop. The workshop was conducted by Benny Erez and it lasted 2.5 hours. Although the presentation was technical, there was a lot of interest in the topic and many questions. As a follow on action, Ms. Balachandran and Mr. Troy visited a University Park resident who has several compost systems in his home. He has large wood-framed bins in his side

yard for composting yard waste. He has a vermiculture system of crates to compost food scraps. The crate system is in his garage during the winter and outdoors in the summer. At a neighbor's house, he has installed a pipe system with holes for worms to enter and exit for composting food scraps. He is willing to set up these systems in the homes of a few College Park residents as demonstration projects for the community. CBE could partially or fully fund these systems. The food composting systems are of most interest to CBE

4. Composting - next steps

Ms. Balachandran reported that there are three composting bins left and there was discussion on whether there is a need for different types of bins. Ms. Balachandran suggested following up with the workshop attendees who received bins and move forward from there.

5. Upcoming activities:

a. Earth Day activities update

Ms. Oppelt reported that she and Robert Boone observed the area on Paint Branch along the stream and the woods on the left (at the Post Office at Hollywood on Route 1) and it is full of trash. Mr. Jascourt indicated that Mr. Brimer had volunteered to participate and that Public Works will provide trash bags and will pick up the bags also.

b. Permaculture workshop April 27

Ms. Oppelt reported that the workshop is scheduled for April 27. Mr. Brown and Ms. Oppelt suggested \$50-60 for food for the workshop and Mr. Brown will be conducting the workshop without charge. Mr. Brown suggested CBE and Tree & Landscape coordinate where to put the plants and identify what type they are and why they would work well. Mr. Brown has a company in Virginia in mind for purchasing the trees and they would also take good care in shipping as well. Mr. Brown suggested allocating two trees for raffle giveaways that will survive. Ms. Oppelt made a motion to allocate up to \$200 that would include trees, and \$100 for food and an honorarium. Ms. Weene seconded the motion and it was unanimous.

c. Green roofs workshop - May 4?

Mr. Hew reported that the workshop is scheduled for May 4, 2013, and he has a flyer to send to the committee. There are two speakers lined up for the workshop and he will need a budget for printing of flyers. Mr. Jascourt made a motion to allocate up to \$50 for flyers and Ms. Termini seconded the motion and the motion was unanimous. Mr. Jascourt made a motion to allocate up to \$100 for refreshments. Ms. Weene seconded the motion and it was unanimous. The workshop is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 4, 2013.

d. Canning preserves workshop - May 18?

Ms. Termini reported that the canning workshop has been cancelled at this time.

e. Bike to Work Day

Mr. Brown distributed brochures to the committee that he will be distributing in the College Park area promoting Bike to Work Day. He will be on hand along with an intern on May 17. In addition, he has been working on giveaways, i.e., water bottles, lights, and tee shirts will be donated from COG. The food portion comes out of the CBE budget and the committee will discuss the amount at the April meeting, but it was suggested that we allocate the amount now in the event we do not have a quorum at the April 22, 2013 meeting. Ms. Oppelt made a motion to allocate \$300 for food and Ms. Weene seconded the motion and the motion was unanimous.

f. Green Awards (nominations due end of June, need publicity)

Ms. Jascourt suggested that the awards be given in July and the nominations on line need to be updated and to circulate the link and update the paper forms and select the date for the Green Awards by late June. He suggested that the link be set up and sent to The Gazette, civic associations and people that have attended the previous workshop. Everything must be sent out in the next couple of weeks. Mr. Jascourt also suggested that in advertising workshops, we should suggest that everyone bring their own plates, cups, etc. which should be lightweight for practical purposes.

6. CBE 2013 budget discussion (compost bins? recycling pride campaign? plants? etc.)

Mr. Jascourt inquired what amount is left in the budget year. He reminded any committee members who have receipts that need to be submitted that this be done immediately.

Plants – Ms. Oppelt briefed the committee on the last planting and asked if the city can water them. Ms. Weene suggested a butterfly garden and put a map at a school and show where the gardens are located – i.e., native garden and the Hollywood Elementary school can visit, etc. Ms. Evans suggested speaking to Brenda Alexander on the topic and to inquire who will care for them. Mr. Brown suggested a garden club can help out in this regard. The committee suggested perennials near the service road on the northwest corner (across Edgewood – it is city right of way – butterfly garden, native garden (theme related).

7. CBE 2014 budget and 2014 City Action Plan (quick look for future focus)

Library – The committee to decide on an amount and it can be an ongoing project for books and DVDs -- \$400 and there is interest in doing an environmental film series per Jackie at the library.

Rain barrels, plants, compost mulch, etc. The committee agreed to strike that one.

Recycled carts for future ongoing orders – Mr. Jascourt reported that the cost is a couple of dollars a cart and CBE should talk to the city first.

Doggie stations – are there any stations that need repair? It was reported that the station at Davis playground is in need of repair and it may cost a few hundred dollars. It is city owned.

Public trash cans – public works should take care of these. Ms. Evans suggested recycling bins along with trash cans.

Mr. Hew suggested putting a notice on banners to advertise CBE workshops and we need better outreach for our upcoming workshops.

Recycling and composting campaign involving the University of Maryland. Ms. Balachandran suggested talking to Mark Stewart. Mr. Jascourt indicated that we have a lot of good projects but some are not clearly defined.

8. Farmer's markets

Council member Kabir has been meeting with North College Park residents for the past several weeks and indicated there is great interest in having a farmer's market in College Park. Kimberly Shuman, a College Park resident, did a survey with vendors. She surveyed 50-60 residents who are interested in having a farmer's market. Mr. Jascourt inquired what is the difference in this survey versus the one that the city did. Council member Kabir responded that it was the way the questions were phrased. There were open-ended questions reports Council Member Kabir. He indicated they have met 4-5 times in the past several months and they have formed a committee and it has bylaws and is named the Hollywood Farmers Market.

a. Downtown

Council member Kabir reported that the downtown Farmer's Market will start on April 14, 2013.

b. Hollywood?

Council member Kabir reports that his market will not be managed by the city. There needs to be money put up for insurance for the market -- \$1,000 and banners and signs approximately \$1,000. There will also be a fee for the market master, which is the large part. Kim Shulman has also volunteered to serve as market master. She will need a fee and it is currently in negotiation. Her compensation can come later from city funds if she is willing to wait. Two of the council members are ready to help. They aim to start the market on June 1st and Kim has started contacting vendors for the market. Currently there are three vendors and they are targeting a total ten vendors.

Council member Kabir reported that the council has approved \$28,000 for the downtown College Park market for this year to get it started. It will either be run by volunteers next year or the downtown merchant group may take it up. The question

remains who will make the rules once it is turned over to the downtown merchant group and when the Farmers Market committee is disbanded who will enforce the rules? Council member Kabir indicated that Mary Lehman is interested (Council) and it is in her district. Mr. Jascourt inquired what happens if we offer an amount and asked for it to be matched and what happens if we don't get a match? Mr. Jascourt suggested that we continue this discussion at the next meeting while the Board of Directors is being formed and we have the legal entity name. Action was tabled to the next CBE meeting.

9. Possible future workshop topic ideas floated:

Workshop topic ideas were Recycling (fall), organic lawn care, pest management for organic gardens, and use of Smartleaf compost. This item was tabled for next committee meeting.

10. Status of CBE web page updates

This item was tabled for the next committee meeting.

11. Multicities environmental boards and commissions meeting, April 18

The next scheduled meeting will be held on April 18, 2013 in Chevy Chase. Mr. Jascourt will not be able to attend, however, any CBE member can attend if they so wish. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. and gather early to socialize. Mr. Jascourt will send the link to committee members.

12. Other old business

There was none to report.

13. New business

Ms. Evans suggested holding a future CBE meeting in North Hollywood since most of the members live in that area perhaps at Davis Hall. Mr. Jascourt indicated that he will check with the City Clerk on the recommendation and report back to the committee.

Mr. Jascourt made motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm and Ms. Termini seconded the motion and it was unanimous. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, April 22, 2013 at City Hall.

Minutes prepared by Denise M. Palmer, Contract Secretary