

**Committee for a Better Environment
Council Chambers
City Hall, College Park
August 26, 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 | X | |
| Donna Weene | X | |
| Macrina Xavier | X | |

Guests Present: Jonathan Brown, City Liaison, Denise M. Palmer, Contract Secretary, Heather Nileyus, Ron Williams, Christiane Williams

Ms. Evans called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

1. Presentation on hens by Jessica Bellah

Ms. Bellah, College Park intern, gave a PowerPoint presentation on backyard hens. Her presentation was considered personal from the standpoint that she has had hens since she was eight years old. She presented the pros and cons covering all aspects from noise, types of coop enclosures, feeding, restrictions, current regulations, and disposal. At the conclusion of her presentation, she offered her assistance to the committee to conduct further research if necessary. Ms. Bellah indicated that she will be on staff through January, 2014 and is available.

2. Discussion: Proposal to Council for allowing and regulating backyard hens

Mr. Mellman mentioned that his paper on the topic was sent out to the committee with proposed recommendations. The committee discussed the pros and cons of the proposed regulations.

Since this is an election year, Mr. Jascourt suggested breaking the proposal into two parts before November, 2013. First, pass a resolution similar to that of the City of Mount Rainier and second, follow up with proposed regulations in place for the draft letter to Council. Ms. Evans agreed with using the Mount Rainier document because it is broad and encouraging. Mr. Troy recommended utilizing the Mount Rainier letter recommendation and the presentation by Ms. Bellah. Mr. Jascourt made a motion to recommend a resolution along the lines of the City of Mount Rainier and attach its

resolution in the event the county does allow backyard hens. Mr. Mellman seconded the motion and Ms. Weene abstained.

3. Strategic planning process – what is it; how would it help CBE identify and achieve goals; how would CBE engage in the process and develop a strategic plan

Mr. Brown gave the overview in preparation for the meeting with council on September 3, 2013 and indicated that he would be willing to walk CBE through various objectives and steps required to develop a strategic plan. Mr. Brown made a motion and recommended making this strategic planning process a separate meeting. Mr. Mellman seconded the motion and it was unanimous. Mr. Brown suggested four hours for the meeting. Some suggestions were to hold it at Davis Hall and perhaps invite more volunteers. This could be done in January. Mr. Jascourt indicated the goal is to have this plan in place to feed into next year's budget.

4. Meeting with Council on September 3. Any materials for Council need to be submitted by August 29

Everyone is invited to come to the council work session to be held at 7:30 p.m. on September 3, 2013 at City Hall.

Mr. Troy suggested business recycling be a topic for discussion at the Council session and indicated that a CBE subcommittee made a proposal in March, 2012 and have held four meetings since that time. He and Ms. Balachandran believe that once the mayor and council put into motion a plan and when they accept recommendations from CBE, the process on how to move forward will be clearly defined. Any documents that should be submitted to council should be delivered by this Friday, August 30.

5. Review of minutes from July 22 meeting

The committee reviewed the minutes of the July 22, 2013 meeting and made revisions. Mr. Jascourt made a motion to adopt the minutes as revised. Ms. Termini seconded and the motion was unanimous.

6. Upcoming events:

- a. Canning and preserves workshop – Sept. 7, Old Parrish House, 9-11 a.m. Ms. Termini indicated that everything is set for the workshop.
- b. College Park environmental film series – The Community Park Community Library (CPCL) will hold the first of an environmental film series using the films purchased by CBE. Jackie Kelly, one of the CPCL's co-directors, requested advertising help and possibly speakers to lead post-film discussion. The first film will be September 16, then every third Monday of the month at 7pm at the CPCL location in North College Park.

Ms. Oppelt provided a color flyer of the films that were donated to the library and requested that 5,000 copies be printed for insertion into the package that the Department of Public Works distributes each year. Ms. Evans made a motion to spend no more than \$1,000 for printing and have them to the printer by September 6, 2013. Mr. Jascourt seconded the motion and it was unanimous.

c. Projects in schools

Ms. Weene reported that everything has been taken care of.

d. College Park Day – Saturday, Oct. 19

Mr. Hew asked for volunteers for the CBE table. Ms. Evans will also be in attendance. Mr. Hew suggested surveys at the event and include information on how residents can be informed about CBE upcoming workshops. Ms. Weene will be in attendance and will coordinate the awarding of gift cards to winners of the recycling contest. She will require a large space to display the entries from the recycling contest and will work together with Mr. Mellman. It will be a separate table or tables. Mr. Hew will request three parking spaces for her exhibits and one for CBE.

Mr. Mellman volunteered to attend and suggested that CBE work to increase public awareness and education for broader outreach and to do a survey on hens. Ms. Balachandran made a motion that CBE undertake a mission to educate residents on backyard hens. Mr. Mellman seconded the motion and it was unanimous.

7. Inserts in annual resident guide due September 6 with 5,000 copies

This topic has been previously covered under another item.

8. Other old business

Ms. Evans indicated that she spoke to C&D recycling representatives and was informed of an upcoming meeting on salvage and the city has budgeted over \$100,000.

9. New business

Mr. Brown reported the Third Annual Clean Up Green Up will be held on October 19, 2013 and he circulated materials to the committee on the topic.

Mr. Jascourt announced there would not be a closed session following the regular planned meeting. He announced that Richard Williamson and Stephen Brimer have resigned from CBE.

There being no further business for discussion, Mr. Jascourt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m. Mr. Troy seconded the motion and it was unanimous. The next meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2013 at City Hall.

Minutes prepared by Denise M. Palmer, Contract Secretary

