

**Approved Minutes of the Committee for a Better Environment
Council Chambers
City Hall, College Park
May 20, 2013
7:00 PM**

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Suchitra Balachandran	X	
Stephen Brimer		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
Richard Williamson		X
Macrina Xavier	X	
Stephen Brimer		X

Guests Present: Jonathan Brown, City Liaison, Denise M. Palmer, Contract Secretary

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

1. Mayor discusses sustainability issues for City (tentative)

This topic was tabled as the Mayor was unable to attend.

2. (While Mayor present) - moving business recycling forward faster

This topic was tabled for discussion.

3. Review of minutes from April 22, 2013

Mr. Jascourt made a motion to accept minutes of the April 22, 2013 meeting as amended. Mr. Troy seconded the motion and it was unanimous.

4. Disposition of remaining FY2013 funds and associated projects:

a. Books and any other media for loan from community library

Ms. Oppelt suggested a new movie for approximately \$89 and additional books for the library. She has a list of names of books and topics for kids and adults. On the list provided by Ms. Oppelt, the cost is approximately \$300 for kids'; books. Mr. Jascourt made a motion to spend up to \$500 for books and DVDs for the library. Ms. Oppelt will

circulate the list to the committee. Ms. Termini seconded the motion, and it was unanimous.

b. Plantings - any for this year? permaculture plans require more planning

The committee agreed to put this item on hold, noting that a more detailed plan is needed and that early Spring and Fall are the best times to plant. The funds can be allocated later in the Summer for the Fall.

c. Other new items?

Committee members discussed several suggestions from the City's horticulturist, Brenda Alexander, for funding, including a bench for a bus stop, 3 dog waste stations (at Duvall Field playground, the Davis playground and at 52nd Ave across from Narragansett Parkway, and a request for gator bags. Approximate quotes were \$900 for the dog waste stations (\$300 each), \$450-900 for gator bags and \$550 for the bench. Mr. Jascourt made a motion to spend on allocate \$1,000 for the dog waste stations in case the estimates were slightly low. Ms. Balachandran (voted against?) abstained to the funding of the dog-waste station. After discussion by the Committee, Mr. Troy made a motion to allocate \$900 for 50 gator bags. Ms. Termini seconded, and it was unanimous. Ms. Termini made a suggestion to replace the bench at Attick Gardens for a maximum of \$550 as per request of Brenda Alexander. Ms. Evans moved to purchase the bench. Mr. Jascourt abstained as he is not convinced that such benches should be coming from CBE funds. Because the total is intended to be \$2400 for these 3 items and the amount on the table would come to \$2450 (1000+900+550), the motion for the benches included amending the \$1000 for dog waste stations down to \$950. . Ms. Termini seconded the motion and it was unanimous. To summarize, the result is spending up to \$950 on 3 dog waste stations, \$900 on 50 gator bags, and \$550 for the bus stop bench.

4. Planning of future events:

a. Rescheduling permaculture workshop

The workshop is scheduled for Saturday, September 28, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Mr. Brown suggested a presentation (informal) at CBE's July meeting to brief everyone on the topic. Mr. Brown indicated that there will be a grant for a community garden, and he wants to suggest that permaculture be used. Nothing is concrete at the present time, but he requested CBE's support of the project. Ms. Balachandran suggested the Pepco- alignment location, which stretches from Metzert Road to Ikea, as a potential site for the community garden.

b. Rescheduling green roofs workshop

Mr. Hew suggests rescheduling the workshop, and he wants to focus on how to attract people to attend. He suggests targeting civic associations with a survey to identify the interest level and perhaps incorporating a PowerPoint presentation and also a pitch to the College Park civic associations. Mr. Jascourt suggested that CBE members discuss the workshop by email and by the next meeting perhaps the survey can be put together.

c. Rescheduling revised recycling workshop

Mr. Troy discussed College Park Woods and putting the recycling and composting workshops together. Mr. Troy, Ms. Balachandran and Mr. Brown have met previously on this topic. Ms. Oppelt suggested the use of an easel on which a sign would be placed, listing which items to recycle and which items not to recycle. Ms. Balachandran suggested updating the brochures. Ms. Oppelt suggested the development of three brochures: general overview, composting, and recycling. Mr. Troy suggested not planning for a recycling workshop, but suggested using the College Park Woods picnic as a test site for the display and perhaps doing other on-site displays, such as College Park Day in October.

d. College Park Arts Exchange (CPAE) project

Ms. Oppelt suggested that we scratch this project. Ms. Evans suggested decorating cat litter boxes instead (?)

e. College Park Woods festival June 1, 2013

Ms. Oppelt reported that she will need easels which are \$60 each and a brochure rack. Mr. Brown will check to see if the City has any easels available for borrowing that can be used. Ms. Oppelt will photocopy compost brochures. Mr. Jascourt made a motion to allocate up to \$400 from the printing budget for easels, signs, photocopies, and acrylic table top holders. Ms. Evans seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimous.

f. Other? (The following topics were mentioned previously: organic lawn care, pest management for organic gardens, use of Smartleaf compost)

Will wait for survey to determine what they may be.

5. Updating CBE web pages – process

Mr. Jascourt inquired about the status of the City's web site makeover and indicated that the group has worked on edits for the existing web pages and that several brochures need updating. The text for the web site can be given to Mr. Brown, and he will get it to City staff member Steve Beavers for updating. Ms. Oppelt is working on the recycling and compost brochures. The new brochure will update the old one and the link will remain the same. Mr. Brown reported that he has seen the new format, and it looks good and will be uniform. Ms. Evans inquired if the committee can see the markup on it just to review. Mr. Brown will check with Chantal Cotton.

6. Wiggio calendar (CBE internal) logistics if need to iron out

The committee will have to look into it further. Ms. Balachandran will follow up in July.

7. Green awards update

Mr. Jascourt has the emails that he needs to send out to the civic organizations and inquired how to go to the webpage and enter the nomination online from the city's website. Mr. Brown will check into it so as to repeat what was done before and change the dates.

8. Other old business

Mr. Troy returned to the second item on this week's agenda and suggested that CBE need establish a proper method to get the message about business recycling to the City and Council. Mr. Jascourt suggested writing a letter or setting up a meeting to discuss the item. Further discussion concluded that we should send a letter to the Council Members previously involved in this, Patrick Wojahn and Stephanie Stulich, to let them know that we want to continue to work with the subcommittee on the business-recycling project. Mr. Troy will generate this draft email and send to Ms. Evans and Ms. Balachandran for finalizing.

Mr. Brown indicated that the Council would like to invite CBE to an upcoming worksession to discuss why CBE does not spend all of the money in its budget, and it could appear as though the committee is not carrying out its mission. Mr. Brown suggested to be prepared to discuss performance measures and validate them.

Ms. Evans inquired if there were changes to the performance measures. Mr. Brown will share the final results with the committee and will start this going forward on July 1, 2013 to chart performance measures.

9. New business

Mr. Brown asked whether CBE knew about a previously done municipal energy audit. Mr. Jascourt summarized two previous studies that interns conducted: one a City emissions inventory and one a community inventory. Mr. Brown commented that the report that we did was seen by Sustainable MD as very valuable, and the City will get points for it. Mr. Brown reported that the City has received \$70,000 to implement energy saving measures in the makeover of City Hall, enough to cover solar panels among the retrofits and modifications. In our emission inventory report, the matter of finalizing the emissions inventories arose. Ms. Evans volunteered to assist with the finalizing of the recommendations in the community inventory. Mr. Jascourt wants to get this done over the summer, and Mr. Brown suggested that CBE also choose a chair or co-chairs before the end of summer, as Mr. Jascourt previously had announced his participation may reduce substantially by or following the September meeting.

Mr. Troy presented a newspaper article on burying cable lines to be discussed at CBE's next meeting.

Mr. Jascourt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Mr. Troy seconded the motion. The next meeting is scheduled for June 24 to be held at Davis Hall.

Minutes prepared by Denise M. Palmer, Contract Secretary