

**Committee for a Better Environment**  
**Davis Hall, College Park**  
**January 26, 2015**  
**7:00 PM**

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Suchitra Balachandran	X (via phone)	
Gemma Evans	X	
Janis Oppelt	X (via phone)	
Kennis Termini		X
Donna Weene	X	
Matt Dernoga	X	
Phil Aronson	X	

Guests Present: Steve Beavers, City Liaison; Annie Rice, University of Maryland; Sheryl DeWalt, Contract Secretary (via phone)

With the inclement weather, an option was given for the meeting to take place via conference call which was arranged by Mr. Beavers. Per the City rules and regulations, a member must be physically present at the meeting to vote, however, discussion can take place with all members whether present or via the phone.

Ms. Evans called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. A role call was made to determine who was present and who was on the phone. A welcome was made to the new committee members: Matt Dernoga and Phil Aronson.

**1. Review and approval 12/8/14 meeting minutes**

Ms. Weene made a motion to approve the draft minutes from the December 8, 2014 meeting. Mr. Dernoga seconded the motion. All in favor.

**2. Budget FY '16**

The total budget for FY '16 is \$11,000. Copies of the budget information were distributed prior to the meeting via email to all members. Discussion took place around verbiage on:

- Goal 1. Provide educational programs highlighting natural resource issues relevant to the City and the quality of life of its residents. Changing natural resource to environmental.
- Operating Expenditures 67. Change verbiage to state "Dues relevant to environmental membership organizations, e.g., ICLEI."

Ms. Weene made a motion to accept the budget discussion changes. Mr. Deronga seconded the motion. All in favor.

**3. Ongoing Business**

**a. Canning & Preserving**

A reminder that there will be 12 people at the Old Parish House on March 21, 2015, from 8:30am-12:30pm, canning and preserving orange marmalade.

**b. Birding Workshop**

Ms. Oppelt stated that she has located the “birding lady,” Margaret Baker, through the Prince Georges County Audubon Society. The workshop is scheduled for March 14. More information regarding the workshop will be forthcoming.

**c. Recycling**

The grant cycle will be re-opened shortly and all applications are to be submitted by March 13. The committee will meet on March 23 to discuss and review the new applications. Recommendations will be given to City Council to review and approve at the April 2 meeting. Winners will be notified by April 22.

Ms. Rice stated that she has two businesses that have completed their application and would be like to start business recycling now. She wanted to know if they could submit their application and get an exception to the new timeline to receive approval and monies. Ms. Evans stated that the City requires that a specific process and timeline must be followed. The timeline given has been approved for the re-opening of the grant.

**4. New Business**

**a. Commemorative plaque.** The Tree and Landscape Board is asking for CBE to help pay for a commemorative plaque and/or rock in memory of Dr. Amelia Murdoch who died on January 16. She was the driving force behind the Veterans Memorial, the National Language Museum, and one time chair of the CBE. They would like to place the plaque on a bench and have a dedication as part of the Arbor Day. The committee is amenable to the idea of honoring Dr. Murdoch.

**b. Green Awards.** Ms. Evans is suggesting we do the Green Awards around Earth Day. One of the recommendations was the person who did the rain garden. Ms. Balachandran knows who the person is, but is not sure of the full name. She will find out and submit to the committee. Ms. Oppelt stated that there is an Awards Subcommittee and will do research on who votes on this committee and email the CBE members.

**c. Solar Panels.** The committee thinks a list should be maintained of everyone who had solar panels installed through the program. Ms. Balachandran stated she would handle this project.

**d. Waste Zero.** Kristin Brown made a presentation on January 7 and there was a good turnout for the meeting. There is supposed to be follow-up with Bob Stump. Mr. Beavers has been trying to schedule a meeting with him and has been unsuccessful to date. Once a meeting has been confirmed, he will inform the committee.

**e. CBE Information.** Ms. Oppelt has boxes in her basement of CBE information that will need a new home.

**5. Next meeting date – 2/23/15**

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, February 23, 2014 at 7:00pm.

A motion was made by Ms. Weene to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Ms. Evans. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37pm.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Sheryl DeWalt, Contract Secretary