

**Committee for a Better Environment
Davis Hall, College Park
April 28, 2014
7:00 PM**

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Suchitra Balachandran	X	
Gemma Evans	X	
Benjamin Mellman		X
Janis Oppelt	X	
Kennis Termini	X	
Donna Weene	X	
Macrina Xavier		X

Guests Present: Julie Taddeo, City of Takoma Park, Catherine Cummings, City of Takoma Park

Alan Hew, Councilmember, Steve Beavers, City Liaison, Denise M. Palmer, Contract Secretary

1. Review and APPROVE minutes of March 24, 2014 meeting

Ms. Evans opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. and asked if the committee members had read the draft of the March minutes and if there were any revisions. Ms. Oppelt will send a red-lined version of the March minutes to the Secretary with their revisions. There being no further revisions, Ms. Termini made a motion to accept the revised minutes. Ms. Oppelt seconded the motion and it was unanimous.

2. Guests:

a. City of Takoma Park residents Julie Taddeo and Catherine Cummings – Pesticide Ban

Ms. Evans introduced two guests from the City of Takoma Park to give their presentation. Ms. Balachandran read an article to the committee concerning the harmful exposure of pesticides. Ms. Taddeo gave the background on how the ordinance was started in Takoma Park. Initially they began to observe the use of pesticides in their neighborhood and then started a leaflet campaign and also ran into a legislative representative who encouraged them to start a petition. They worked with two council members to draft the law and worked with towns and cities that were already taking the lead on banning of pesticides.

Ms. Balachandran inquired what the City of College Park is doing currently on the issue. Mr. Beavers pulled a list of weeds from the Takoma Park website and

highlighted the pesticides that are currently being used in College Park in planting beds and fields in the city. Ms. Balachandran suggested talks with the city council to stress the importance of a ban on pesticides.

Ms. Evans asked the Takoma Park representatives for any recommendations that we can follow. Ms. Taddeo suggested that College Park adopt the approved registry of pesticides – EPA maintains a list of minimally invasive pesticides. They also sent notices to approximately 700 businesses concerning the law. Washington Adventist Hospital went pesticide free. In that regard Ms. Taddeo suggested if CBE can convince the University of Maryland to go pesticide free, it would be easy for other to follow that example. Ms. Taddeo and Ms. Cummings indicated they would be in Annapolis tomorrow, April 29, 2014 to pitch pesticide-free fields at the schools. They offered to assist CBE to move forward with the pesticide-free ban in College Park, and the committee thanked them for their time and assistance and will stay in touch with them.

Ms. Evans suggested getting Public Works involved on the development of the ordinance. Mr. Hew suggested that we have alternatives in mind to replace what is currently being used. Mr. Beavers indicated that the education will be play a big role and will help to get them up to speed on it.

Ms. Evans inquired what would be needed if we brought the pesticide ban/ordinance up at a council session. Mr. Hew indicated that CBE should have a list of items that are currently on the ban list and a list of the alternatives that can be used, but he stated the general consensus would be to start with education on the topic. He also suggested bringing in an expert on the topic and expensing that cost through the CBE budget. Ms. Evans suggested that each committee member spend an hour to educate themselves on the issues.

3. Financial report

a. Fiscal Year

Mr. Beavers reported there is currently over \$9,000 left in the budget. Votes are needed for the following upcoming events:

b. Funding Requests

i. Bike to Work Day - Refreshments and DJ – Mr. requested funds for food and gifts and requests chair massages for two therapists for two hours. Approximately 80 people have registered. He has donations from MOM's – fruit, yogurt, and trail mix. Food and gifts \$300; DJ services \$300; and massages \$400 – for \$1,000 for everything.

Ms. Evans made a motion to expend \$1,000 for Bike to Work Day. Ms. Weene seconded the motion and it was unanimous.

ii. Compost bins – Committee to purchase 55 bins at \$25 each and will determine how they will be put to use. Ms. Evans made motion to expend \$1,375 for compost bins. Ms. Termini seconded the motion and it was unanimous.

iii. Permaculture plan/design – Ms. Oppelt made a motion to formally approve paying Lincoln Smith of Forested for the permaculture program design and for 35 hours at \$60 an hour. The amount for the project would be a total of \$2,700. Ms. Evans seconded the motion and it was unanimous.

iv. Rain barrel kits and workshop (Council request) – A request for CBE to organize a rain barrel workshop. Ms. Termini suggested hiring an artist to decorate the barrels. Ms. Balachandran reported that the Bowie Lions Club has 250 gallons rain barrels. Mr. Beavers suggested purchasing 20 rain barrels at \$50 each. Ms. Oppelt will find invoice. The committee agreed to hold off on this item for now until price can be confirmed.

v. Gator bags for new tree plantings – Ms. Evans made a motion to purchase gator bags for 50 trees at \$18 each for a total of \$900. Ms. Weene seconded the motion and it was unanimous.

vi. Planning for department requests - Other workshops suggested –native plant workshops. Additional requests- for metal picnic tables for pop up park next to Little Tavern and subway on Route 1 which is now a parking lot owned by the University. The committee voted no on this request.

vii. Books – Ms. Oppelt suggested purchasing approximately \$200 worth of Spanish-language environmental books to donate to the College Park Community Library. Ms. Evans made a motion to expend \$200 and Ms. Termini seconded the motion and it was unanimous.

4. Events

a. Community Clean Up is scheduled for May 3, 2014, next Saturday, and Ms. Xavier is handling the event. Ms. Evans made a motion to spend \$100 for the Community Clean Up which would include refreshments and printing costs. Ms. Oppelt seconded the motion and it was unanimous.

b. Bike to Work Day – financial support – discussed above

c. Future workshops – composting, rain barrels, native plants, etc.
Ms. Termini suggested a workshop on Bat Houses.

5. Ongoing (Old Business)

a. Business recycling – update

On May 6, 2014 CBE will be attending the Council work session to discuss Business Recycling. Mr. Gardiner has put together grant guidelines and applications. Ms. Evans will provide a copy to the committee members.

b. Tree & Landscape Board Meeting - recap

Ms. Evans attended the Tree and Landscape meeting and gave an update to the committee.

c. Permaculture Update

Mr. Beavers gave an update on the permaculture site and circulated a map of locations. Lincoln Smith will present this plan on May 15 at the Berwyn Association meeting, and he will send email to committee members. Mr. Smith also will do a presentation on May 21 to the Tree & Landscape Board and June 3rd at the Council worksession. Ms. Evans indicated that he should suggest that there be no pesticides used at the Permaculture site.

Mr. Beavers is working with the Green Team on a community garden. There will be a summit, including presentations from several groups at the beginning of the Green Team meeting. He will send an email to the committee.

d. Solar Workshop

Ms. Evans reported that there were approximately 20 attendees at the Solar Workshop. Ms. Evans made a motion to support the use of City Hall for the follow up meeting to the Solar Workshop to be held on May 5. Ms. Termini seconded the motion and it was unanimous.

6. New Business

The committee discussed the next meeting date. It was agreed that the May meeting will be postponed since the fourth Monday is Memorial Day. Therefore, the May meeting will be held on June 2, 2014 and the June meeting will be scheduled for June 30, 2014 at Davis Hall.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Denise M. Palmer, Contract Secretary