

Committee for a Better Environment
Davis Hall, College Park
October 27, 2014
7:00 PM

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

Guests Present: Steve Beavers, City Liaison, Sheryl DeWalt, Contract Secretary, Phil Aronson, Devon Howard, University of Maryland, Cecilia Bisogue, University of Maryland, Annie Rice, University of Maryland

1. Review and approval 9/22/14 meeting minutes

Ms. Evans called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Ms. Termini made a motion to approve the edited minutes from the September 22, 2014 meeting. Ms. Weene seconded the motion and the minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

2. Financial Report

Mr. Beavers presented the Financial Report to the committee. All expenses to committee members received have been paid. Lincoln was paid 10.5 hours of work for Permaculture Day. Brochure printing was \$440. \$2100 was paid out for trees, shrubs, plants, etc. for Permaculture Day. Year-to-date, approximately \$5000 has been spent; there is approximately \$6000 remaining in the budget. Discussion took place on signage for the foliage planted on Permaculture Day and an approximate cost for signage. A final decision has not been reached on signage style or wording.

3. Ongoing Business

a. Future Workshops

Ms. Evans reported that there will be a workshop on compost and a workshop on pollinators, but no exact details have been provided. Once received, the information will be disseminated to the committee. Ms. Balachandran stated that she will make inquiries regarding educational information on pesticides and herbicides.

b. Business Recycling

Ms. Evans stated that the Business Recycle Meeting will take place on Monday, November 3, 2014. They will be reviewing grant applications. She also stated that the grant process will likely be re-opened for additional applications. Ms. Rice stated that she is working with the downtown bars on information about submitting grant applications.

c. Clean Up

College Park Clean-Up Day is scheduled for Saturday, November 1, 2014, beginning at 9am in North College Park. Volunteers are needed.

4. New Business

a. Ms. Evans recognized Mr. Aronson. Mr. Aronson wanted to discuss offenders of cut grass clippings being swept into the streets and into storm drains. He cited that the landscaping companies are one of the biggest offenders. He shared a copy of a study completed by Cornell University. Ms. Oppelt stated that the grass brochure could be updated and distributed.

b. **CP Sustainability Summit.** The community garden survey has not been officially sign off by City staff. We are waiting to hear from Emily on the date of the summit. This is part of the three-year action plan of the Green Team Committee.

i. Community Gardens. Ms. Weene stated that the residents of Attic Towers have an interest in expanding their community garden but would need permission from the College Park Housing Authority. Mr. Beavers stated that Ms. Michaeline Ruben with the Healthy Fixtures Program at the University of Maryland may be of assistance. Ms. Evans stated that Ms. Weene and Ms. Oppelt are encouraged to pursue the issue for Attic Towers and report back to the committee of their findings.

ii. Student sustainability. There is an essay contest at the University of Maryland on “Why It Is Important to Make Changes to the CHP Plant?” Ms. Rice stated that she would keep the committee updated.

5. Other discussion

Permaculture Day went very well; lots of excitement. October 4 had Approximately 15 people attended and volunteered on October 4th. Approximately 40 people volunteered on October 11th, including a student class from the University of Maryland. There were many pictures taken and they will be placed online. Currently a maintenance plan is being developed for weeding, watering, etc.

7. Next meeting date – 12/8/14

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, December 8, 2014 at 6:30pm. This will be a Pot Luck Dinner Meeting. The meeting schedule will return to normal as of January 26, 2015.

Ms. Weene made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Termini and it was unanimous.

Minutes recorded by Sheryl DeWalt, Contract Secretary