

**Committee for a Better Environment  
Council Chambers  
City Hall, College Park  
April 22, 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	
Richard Williamson		X
Macrina Xavier	X	

Guests also present Jonathan Brown, City Liaison, and Denise M. Palmer, Contract Secretary

Mr. Jascourt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**1. Review of minutes from Feb 25, 2013, and April 1, 2013 meetings**

After review of the minutes and with recommended revisions, Mr. Jascourt made a motion to adopt the February 25 and April 1, 2013 minutes as amended. Mr. Troy seconded the motion and it was unanimous.

**2. Disposition of remaining FY 2013 funds and associated projects**

Mr. Jascourt indicated that the committee must decide what to do with the remaining funds in the FY 2013 budget. Ms. Oppelt circulated a list of possibilities at the last meeting. The Committee discussed various landscaping projects that could be funded with the remaining budget and whether to contact Brenda Alexander or coordinate the effort with the Tree & Landscape Board at its next meeting on May 8, 2013. Mr. Jascourt suggested that if CBE has a quorum at its May meeting, it should resume discussion at that time to expend any funds needed before June.

Ms. Balachandran contacted the College Park Community Library about CBE's possible purchase of environmentally related DVDs and books. CBE will develop a list of suggested titles and check that the proposed purchases are not currently available in the county library system.

Discussion commenced about possible plantings at the intersection of Edgewood and Rhode Island Avenue. Mr. Jascourt stated that the northwest corner of the intersection contains a City right-of-way strip available for planting. Ms. Termini suggested speaking with Brenda Alexander about planting permaculture and perennials. Mr. Jascourt asked Mr. Brown to take a look at it and make recommendations and suggested that Brenda Alexander make the final call on the type of plantings. The question remains if Ms. Alexander is willing to use City resources to do the digging and maintenance if CBE agrees to fund the project.

**Compost bins:** Ms. Balachandran has identified one person who is interested in hosting a demo for compost bins and inquired if members should look for more people interested in demo sites. The cost is \$30 for the tube in the ground, and she recommended that CBE purchase a set of three crates and pay the individual who will do the installation work. Mr. Jascourt indicated that the town of Cheverly is looking for other cities to go in with it to purchase bins; the bin it uses is the “Soil Saver.” A working model can be seen at the home of Doug Alexander. Ms. Balachandran suggested following up on the previous workshop participants to measure the level of interest from the 30 bins given out at that time. Ms. Termini volunteered to secure the contacts for Spellman House and Attick Gardens for the use of compost bins that need a home and to give the leads to Mr. Mellman. Mr. Jascourt moved to allocate \$200 for the compost demonstration projects and Ms. Termini seconded the motion and it was unanimous.

**Recycling carts:** This topic was discussed at last month’s meeting.

**Doggie clean-up station:** – Ms. Termini reported that the City has already ordered it.

**Future workshops** for green lawn and permaculture: Mr. Jascourt indicated that the budget for these would be determined when they are put on the schedule.

**College Park recycling:** – Ms. Balachandran suggested the subcommittee should reconvene and Mr. Troy agreed that it is much needed.

### **3. Finalizing 2014 CBE performance measures, attached, and 2013 actuals**

Mr. Jascourt read the 2014 performance measures to the committee. There was discussion on whether CBE should update its performance measures, and the committee agreed that after the CBE website is updated, hits to the site should be tracked. For Items 1–7 on the 2014 performance measures, Mr. Jascourt indicated that the figures need to be given to Mr. Brown immediately due to time constraints. The committee discussed and agreed on performance measure numbers achieved for FY2013 and modified the goals that would be targeted for FY 2014. These figures were recorded by Mr. Brown. For future record-keeping, Ms. Xavier offered to create a spreadsheet to track the number of attendees at CBE workshops, and Mr. Brown offered to create a matrix with the details of workshop attendance and maintain it also.

The title page describes CBE’s function as follows: “The Committee for a Better Environment (CBE) was established to advise the Mayor & Council on environmental

issues affecting the lives of College Park residents and shall initiate and implement beautification efforts.” Mr. Jascourt suggested editing that description, replacing “beautification efforts” with “provide support for plantings...” Mr. Brown will need the edits by Tuesday, April 23. Ms. Balachandran agreed to work with Ms. Oppelt to revise the language in the description and place emphasis on workshops, public awareness, energy, carbon footprints and sustainability.

**4. Recap of recent events: Earth Day activities, MMC meeting if anyone attended**

This item was tabled until the May, 2013 meeting.

**5. Upcoming activities:**

**a. Permaculture workshop April 27 - should be all set, anything to add?**

Ms. Oppelt is handling the advertising for the workshop.

**b. Green roofs workshop May 4, should be all set, anything to add?**

Details are set for this workshop.

**c. Bike to Work Day**

Details are set for this event.

**d. CPAE project**

College Park Arts Exchange project to be updated by Ms. Oppelt at the May meeting.

**e. Invitation to present at College Park Woods neighborhood festival June 1 - recycling test, etc., expect 150–200 people**

Ms. Balachandran suggested that it may be more useful to discuss composting at this event rather than recycling, as recycling was discussed at the same forum last year. She indicated the need for volunteers to assist since she will not be in attendance. Mr. Troy indicated that he may be able to assist Ms. Balachandran on the event.

**f. Other?**

There were no other items for discussion.

**6. Possible future workshop topic ideas floated:**

Recycling (fall)

Organic lawn care, pest management for organic gardens, use of Smartleaf compost

These items were tabled for the May meeting.

**7. Status of CBE web page updates**

Mr. Brown offered to check on the update and will report on the timeline.

**8. Other old business**

There was none for discussion.

**9. New business**

As a follow up to the suggestion that some CBE meetings be held in Davis Hall, Mr. Jascourt reported that we have permission to hold some meetings in Davis Hall instead of our present location. Mr. Jascourt suggested having the June meeting in Davis Hall.

Mr. Jascourt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Ms. Weene seconded the motion and it was unanimous.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2013 at City Hall.

Minutes prepared by Denise M. Palmer, Contract Secretary