# Hyattsville Environment Committee (HEC)
Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2025
7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Open to the Public -- Zoom Webinar Meeting

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https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Eskit16hS62VEsKN4DH4YQ

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**Attendees:** Melissa Schweisguth, Thaddeus Waterman, Rayya Newman, Janet Nackoney, Malgorzata Bereziewicz, Council Liaison Danny Schaible, Staff Liaison Dawn Taft, **Guests:** Mike Hunninghake, Abraham Lopez Trejo, Maximiliano Vasquez

## Agenda Items:
1. Welcome, Committee Roll Call, & Guest Orientation.
2. Approval of April Meeting Minutes
   a. Unanimous approval (after some revisions)
3. Public Comment Period (Comments limited to 3 minutes per person)
4. Sustainable Maryland Green Team presentation/training (1 hour)
   a. Mike Hunninghake from Sustainable Maryland provided Green Team Training
      i. Slides can be found [here](#)
   b. Sustainable Maryland is an initiative of the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland in College Park
      i. Funded by the State of Maryland, but also funding/partnerships with community and corporate partnerships
      ii. Free and voluntary program for municipalities that want to go green, save money, and take steps to sustain a healthy quality of life
      iii. Program Benefits include: Technical assistance, University resources, Training, Grants, Peer-to-Peer networking, Community modeling, and Statewide recognition
   c. Municipalities across Maryland are participating: 91 registered, 51 certified, 26 of 27 Prince George's County Municipalities are registered or certified
   d. Requirements for Certification

   i. Resolution indicating intention to pursue certification
   ii. Two Mandatory Actions (Green Team & Action Plan)
   iii. Bronze level - Two out of 10 Actions and 150 points
   iv. Silver level - Four out of 10 Actions and 400 points (Hyattsville's level as of 2022)

e. New Actions have been launched since 2022

f. Action details
   i. Actions must have some connection to municipality
   ii. Events should be within 12 months of application
   iii. Planning documents should be updated in last 6 years
   iv. Recertify every 3 years by June 30th
     1. Although the deadline is June 30th, municipalities will have the opportunity to update their applications 1-2 times and can add things that have been completed
   v. Upload information about actions to website

g. Green Teams should recruit members from the public. Green team members may not be able to do things that require being city staff, but can conduct research, help develop action plans, and other beneficial actions to support municipalities

h. Examples of Actions
   i. Farmer Markets
   ii. Build on Local Assets (people, history, sites, and partnerships)
   iii. Getting the World Out

i. Certification Strategy
   i. Assess what you have completed
   ii. Identify actions you wish to undertake
   iii. Rank each actions difficulty
   iv. Identify potential funding resources
   v. Recruit volunteers
   vi. Track progress
   vii. Get the word out

j. Reviewed Hyattsville Action Plan from previous years for ideas for the year. List of previous actions can be found on the Hyattsville Action Plan Review slide (**add link**)

k. Part of the submission/recertification is about sharing information with other municipalities. It is ok if things that were tried didn't turn out well, we want to share what is working

l. Sustainable Maryland is putting together a pilot this year for watershed stewardship training

m. Questions/Comments:
- i. What does the mandatory action plan look like?
    1. For many communities we provide a template to ask communities to let us know what they plan to do in the next three years. Hyattsville last time submitted a sustainability plan
- ii. Many of the things that the HEC team does is provide advice to the city, but many of the actions needed for certification look to be done by staff. City is not putting together a sustainability plan this year.
    1. Green team is making recommendations, and helping guide the city on sustainable practices. HEC and the Green team are serving the same purposes for Hyattsville
    2. Problem worth having. Most communities aren't doing as many things. Whatever is submitted will be ok
- iii. There are a lot of things that the city does that aren't talked about at HEC. A lot of things HEC does is try to move the city forward on new things like Action Plans, etc. Often we don't do these things ourselves, but recommend actions to the city.
    1. Economic development and city staff are submitting the actual application.
- iv. Hyattsville lets wildlife habitat / wildflowers grow taller than 10 inches as part of city ordinance. May be worth mentioning in application
- v. Does hosting the Prince George's County Green Summit yearly count for points?
    1. Yes
- vi. What stage do Climate Action Plans and other initiatives have to be in to count?
    1. Things need to go beyond the recommendation stage, things should be in the planning or completed stages to count
- vii. Would the city get points for partnering on a Green Business workshop from 2023?
    1. We want cities to host annual events, likely would not count if the last one is from 2023

5. Sustainable Maryland Green Team presentations (5/29)
   a. Dawn is planning to give a six minute presentation on what to highlight for Hyattsville
   b. Suggested Topics
      i. Climate Action Plan

        ii.     Invasive Ivy Removals
       iii.     Electric Street Sweepers
       iv.     Food Forests
        v.     Let Dawn know about other ideas

6. Any Other Business
    a. Janet will take notes for next meeting
7. Announcements
8. Adjournment

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- The Committee chair/city staff will handle audio settings for guests. However, as a best practice, please keep your audio muted when you are not speaking.
- Please keep other devices (e.g., cell phones, televisions, radios, etc.) silenced during meetings to minimize audio distractions.
- Please use the "Raise Hand" feature if you would like to speak during the public comment periods of the meeting.
- The City does not enable the Chat function for guests. Please use the Q&A function to share questions and comments.