

# Hyattsville Environment Committee (HEC)

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

**HEC members:** Thaddeus Waterman (chair), Janet Nackoney (Notes), Dawn Taft (staff), Priyanka Joshi (staff), Melissa Schweisguth, James Ball, Malgorzata (Gosia) Bereziewicz, Ian Fay

**Guests:** Greg Smith

## Notes

1. Welcome, Committee Roll Call, & Guest Orientation.
2. Approval of [March Meeting Minutes](#): **APPROVED**
3. Public Comment Period
  - GS: A zoning bill (Council Bill 15) being considered by the County Council poses risk of causing sprawl and limiting Hyattsville's climate action and tree canopy goals. There's also another bill in development that will fast-track the permitting of data centers across the county. This has implications for energy consumption as these data centers are very energy-intensive. GS will follow up with more information about these bills.
4. Next Steps for Hyattsville Climate Action Plan
  - JB: Thank you to Danny for his support of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) and ability to bring it in front of the City Council. JB and others provided public comment in support. The CAP was passed! The City will not be able to take action on this until spring 2025 due to limited resources. In the meantime, interested to understand whether HEC could help with initial steps. Some of the grants/potential pools of funding for the CAP have time limits if we are seeking more financial support. Also, HEC could help draft the RFP for soliciting the implementation team.
  - **ACTION:** DT will send an email to Lesley to get clarity on resource allocation for the RFP process and whether the City anticipates seeking a grant for the \$100K. It seems like the City won't have resources to pay attention to this for another year, so it would be good to understand what timeline DPW anticipates that our support might be most helpful.

- TW has set up a new folder in our Google Drive called “Climate Action Plan Support” meant for storing materials/resources related to the CAP.

#### 5. Green Summit 2024 (Dawn)

- Next year’s Green Summit will be held again in Driskell Park. DT looking for more ideas from HEC for improving the Green Summit. Low-Impact Development Center will be a major partner. We can review the HEC November meeting minutes for highlights and a debrief from last October’s Green Summit. Some suggestions included having more emphasis on communications/outreach to raise awareness and more presence by the City of Hyattsville. HEC also prepared a list of suggested vendors, which is saved in the HEC Google Drive and called “Vendor recommendations for 9th Annual Green Summit.”
- **ACTION:** DT will ask whether the City could have a table to showcase a selection of relevant Hyattsville committees and initiatives? Or if not, could there be a space for PG County Green Teams and/or Sustainable Maryland?
- **ACTION:** TW has set up a [google doc](#) to capture our ideas for next year– please add your ideas.

#### 6. [Hyattsville municipal exemption from MG Ag Spraying](#) (Melissa/Janet)

- How do municipalities get exemptions? DT: City of Hyattsville has been promoting GATT traps and other natural solutions to control mosquitos. The City is recommending that individual residents exempt themselves.
  - i. JN: Would be helpful to understand what might be entailed in exempting the City of Hyattsville. If we truly are committed to natural solutions for mosquito control, we need to walk our talk– as pesticide spraying is harmful to both human and environmental health. Some residents are paying for additional private spraying by companies– these areas are getting double-sprayed.
- There is committee support for continuing to promote GAT traps, preventative measures to prevent mosquitos, and raise awareness about the spraying. There is interest in understanding whether HEC could have a role in making a recommendation to City Council.
- **ACTION:** DT will find out more information about what it might take for the City of Hyattsville to opt out of the spraying.

#### 7. Community Solar Opportunities (Thaddeus)

- New potential community solar farm being distributed by Pepco is going to be offered in Hyattsville soon. Some programs are cheaper than fossil fuels. Just an FYI for now.

#### 8. New Business

- N/A

#### 9. Announcements

- DT: Urban forestry camp now being offered through Sustainable Maryland (July 7-13).
- DT: Community walking tour on June 15 guided by Chesapeake Bay Trust and PG County Audubon to tour residents' yards who have used both the [Rain Check Rebate](#) and PG County Audubon yard assessment.
- MS: Public session to provide feedback on the Hyattsville (Sustainability) Strategic Plan on May 22 from 6:30-8PM.

#### 10. Adjournment