

Hyattsville Environment Committee (HEC)

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

HEC members: Thaddeus Waterman (Chair), Janet Nackoney (minutes), Melissa Schweisguth, Dawn Taft (staff), Lesley Riddle (staff), James Ball, James Wigley, Rayya Newman, Danny Schaible (City Council), Malgorzata (Gosia) Bereziewicz

Guests: Maximiliano Vasquez, Lauren Applegate, Martha Ainsworth

Notes

1. Welcome, Committee Roll Call, & Guest Orientation
2. Approval of [October Meeting Minutes](#)
3. Public Comment Period
4. Climate Action Plan (CAP) grant discussion with Director Riddle: process to finalize application, timeline to submit, CAP engagement with PAMC/Planning staff
 - a. Priyanka will be leading the process of writing Hyattsville's grant application to seek funding through the Planning Assistance to Municipalities and Communities (PAMC) Program. RN has offered to help connect Priyanka directly to PAMC for an introductory meeting.
 - b. MS has shared comments related to ensuring inclusion and equity considerations are included in the CAP.
 - c. LR: City staff are eager to hear from HEC on any recommendations for the scope of work and recommendations for initiatives to consider in the CAP itself.
 - d. HEC can also decide whether they want to lead the formation of a CAP Advisory Committee for the City. If so, they would need to propose to City Council the formation of the advisory committee. The committee would need to have a City Advisor; membership of the committee would need to be approved by City Council. Laura Reams and Nate Groenendyk could attend a future HEC meeting to explain this process. The CAP Advisory Committee's role would be to advise City Council on recommended content and considerations for the CAP.
 - e. RN: from her conversations with PAMC, the CAP could be used to conduct relevant studies to collect additional data and boost understanding of key challenges and appropriate interventions in the City.
 - f. LR: Highly recommends that HEC makes a formal presentation of recommendations to City Council

- g. PAMC will take leadership in developing the CAP (with City staff management) along with an advisory committee. But there is opportunity for HEC to also advise on implementation
 - h. Next steps: RN will help set up a meeting with PAMC; Dec HEC agenda item to discuss potential formation of a CAP advisory committee
- 5. Bottle Bill, Martha Ainsworth (Danny Schaible)
 - a. Martha is a state-wide leader for Maryland in advocating for the passing of a Maryland Bottle Bill, which would add a bottle deposit surcharge to beverage bottle containers (bottles and cans) in the state. Bottle bills have been successful in reducing bottle trash and encouraging more recycling (only ¼ of 5.5M beverage containers in MD make it to recycling facilities).
 - b. \$0.10 cent deposit for containers <24 oz; \$0.15 cent deposit for larger (like wine bottles) when the container is returned back to retail facility. The bill, once passed, will take 2.5 years to begin. Local governments will benefit from reduced municipal solid waste (trash and recycling).
 - c. Regional municipal support has been growing; College Park, Brentwood, Riverdale Park, Baltimore are among those who have added their support. Washington, DC will also introduce their own Bottle Bill in January 2025.
 - d. Opportunity for HEC to encourage the City of Hyattsville to write a letter of support for the Maryland Bottle Bill. Martha can share language in a draft letter that we can finesse as desired.
- 6. [HEC 2025 Meeting Calendar Review](#)
- 7. New Business
- 8. Announcements
 - a. HEC will be voting for new Chair positions in December. Thaddeus will step down and invites nominations. Janet also invites nominations for minute-taking.
 - b. Nov 16th: [Tree pruning event with Casey Trees](#) at Hyattsville Duck Pond
 - c. Reminder: City invasive vine removal most every third Saturday of the month.
- 9. Adjournment