

Hyattsville Environment Committee (HEC)

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 13, 2024

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

HEC members: Thaddeus Waterman (Chair), Melissa Schweisguth (minutes), Dawn Taft (staff), Danny Schaible (Council), Rayya Newman, James Ball, Malgorzata (Gosia) Bereziewicz, James Wigley, Joseph Demarco, Ian Fay

Guests:

Notes

1. Welcome, Committee Roll Call, & Guest Orientation.
2. Approval of [July Meeting Minutes](#): **APPROVED**
3. Public Comment Period
 - a. No comments
4. Green Summit 2024 Planning
 - a. Dawn thinks City needs 1-2 HEC members
 - b. Discussion about what to have at table the : survey (resident needs, interests, questions, etc.), info on how to share input with City/HEC year round, info on City programs
 - c. Tree Board is also tabling. Discussed finding out what they are doing so we do not duplicate
 - d. Discussed interactive activity - have people ask questions, share input (e.g., top enviro priorities, what's missing in HVL: build off of Strategic plan list). Post its, vote with dots, video
 - e. Sign ups/info for City priority needs, e.g., invasive removal, tree watering
5. Hyattsville Climate Action Plan
 - a. How do committee members want to engage around this - as a whole group or with a committee?
 - i. Not all members are interested in working directly and intensively on this. Thaddeus and Melissa are interested, others happy to defer. Thaddeus will ask members who missed this meeting if they are interested.
 - b. What should HEC do and when, given DPW resource constraints to engage?
 - i. Dawn indicated HEC could get started, agreement that it would be helpful for HEC to draft RFP or scope of work
6. [Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program](#)

- a. Thaddeus asked for input on possible projects HVL could submit a proposal for
 - b. Mall at prince Georges/proposed Hyattsville Crossing BID is in the grant's geographic focus
7. City tree losses - extent and plan to avoid such losses in the future
- a. City has watering contractors log dead trees and will replace in fall or spring.
 - b. Drought results were unexpected - trees three yrs old should not have needed water but died.
8. [Hyattsville municipal exemption from MG Ag Spraying](#) - Update from Dawn
- a. Dawn confirmed with MD Ag that they spray only if mosquito surveillance indicates presence above a specific threshold or have complaints, though website indicates weekly spraying
9. New Business
- a. Better Bag Bill Revisited: Successes and Threats:
 - i. Martha Ainsworth of Sierra Club provided an update (a [summary](#) is on their website). Sierra Club surveyed use of plastic, paper, reusable or no bag. Across seven major grocery stores, reusable or no bag went from 12 to 62 percent.
 - ii. She noted that County councilor Oriadha has proposed a bill that would weaken the Better Bag Bill by allowing compostable plastic, exempting foodservice, and removing the ten-cent fee for paper bags
 - iii. HEC could opt to recommend that City send a letter asking county council to reject Oriadha's bill and keep the Better Bag bill intact as is
10. Announcements
- a. None
11. Adjournment
- a. Motion, seconded, all in favor