

Hyattsville Environment Committee (HEC)

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 08, 2024

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

HEC members: Thaddeus Waterman (Chair), Janet Nackoney (minutes), Melissa Schweisguth, Dawn Taft (staff), James Ball, James Wigley, Rayya Newman

Guests: Maximiliano Vasquez

Notes

1. Welcome, Committee Roll Call, & Guest Orientation
2. Approval of [September Meeting Minutes](#): **Approved**
3. Public Comment Period
4. Green Summit 2024 Planning
 - Green Summit will be on Sat October 19. Dawn will connect HEC volunteers with Tara, the volunteer coordinator.
 - Rayya is designing a [treasure hunt](#) activity to teach people more about Hyattsville and nature and sustainability. Will connect with Dawn for printing and any potential giveaways. Will refine the questions and be ready for final review this coming Sunday.
5. CAP sub-committee update (James)
 - The City has confirmed that we can have a sub-committee, but it needs to be below quorum. We can rotate meetings if we have too many people. We can also invite members of the public to join our meetings if desired.
 - DPW will officially request the City Council to approve funding for the CAP at the City Council meeting this month. Developing the Scope of Work for RFP will be the next step once the funding is approved in the City budget.
 - James will be unable to continue to lead the sub-committee and anticipated input from HEC side. HEC might consider devoting more time to work on this within our regular monthly meeting.
 - **Action:** HEC will pull together some sample RFPs for group review at the November HEC meeting (Melissa, Rayya). We will table the idea of having a sub-committee and devote more time to work on CAP planning in our monthly meetings.
6. Hyattsville Environmental Committee Diversity (Thaddeus)
 - Hyattsville is a very diverse city; HEC's representation does not match the City's diversity. We are missing many potential voices that could be part of our discussions. The City has been actively working on DEIA initiatives for City committees by promoting stipends for volunteers.

- Potential actions: Socialize HEC's two available member positions at the upcoming Green Summit; we could also use HOPE listserv to get the word out. DT: We could also engage Hyattsville's Race and Equity Advisor (perhaps invite to an upcoming meeting).

7. Other business

8. Announcements

- RN: Is learning more about community resilience hubs in municipalities that are designated spaces where residents can go in case of emergencies. These spaces have battery backups, first aid, and shelter. Wondering if Hyattsville has considered this idea.
- TW: With election day coming up, a reminder to VOTE!
- DT: Upcoming events
 - Casey Trees planting over 150 trees in Hamilton Manor this weekend, 10/12 [Register](#)
 - Two upcoming events both on Oct 26:
 - Good Neighbor Day: Events at both food forests
 - Fall 2024 Healthy Trees Hyattsville Series led by Casey Trees - Right Tree, Right Place. Learn about the types of trees native to our community and how to select the right trees for your yard.

9. Adjournment