

Hyattsville Environment Committee (HEC)

Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, Aug 11, 2020

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Open to the Public -- Zoom Webinar Meeting

Register to attend the virtual meeting via Zoom Webinar here:

Registration Link

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hBQYrYG7SJSuop7buDLpjQ

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome, Committee Roll Call, & Guest Orientation
2. Approval of meeting minutes
3. Development and compliance with county/city environmental requirements (e.g., stormwater, erosion control, etc.) (JG/TG)
4. Report out on leaf blower/lawnmower ban and fact sheet (JM/BW?)
5. Discussion of and next steps on Race & Equity draft report (EW)
6. Reports on coordination opportunities with other city advisory committees (All)
7. Announcements or Notices
8. Adjournment

Virtual Meeting Procedure and Etiquette for Guests

- 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 to minimize audio distractions during the meeting.
- Please use the “Raise Hand” feature if you would like to speak during the public comment periods of the meeting

Hyattsville Environment Committee

July 14, 2020

Attendance:

Theresa Goedeke, Chair
Rich Canino, Vice Chair
Jim Groves, Secretary
Jared Messinger
Eli Webster
John Fisher
Megan Haidet
Brie Welzer
Danny Schaible, City Council
Ben Simasek, City Council
Dawn Taft, City of Hyattsville DPW
Michael Schmidl, City of Hyattsville DPW
Stacie Whitesides, Guest

- I. Welcome and Introductions and Roll Call
- II. Minutes - Motion to Approve June 23, 2020 Minutes –Webster/Messinger - Approved
- III. Chevy Chase Ban on Gas Powered Leaf Blowers: Danny Schaible talked about the Chevy Chase Ban on gas powered leaf blowers. Problem with them is that they are powered by “two cycle” engines which are huge polluters. Their proposal is that they are banned just on Sundays in 2021, then 2022 on the weekends, etc. until they are banned outright. Danny is working on a lot of things but wanted to bring it up to see if we wanted to take it up. It applies to commercial and residential. Comments were made that it should include all two-cycle engines, not just blowers. First violation would be a warning. Comments were made regarding enforcement and environmental benefits. Would need to make sure there was enough of a money “buy back” incentive for people to do it. Brie suggested putting together a fact sheet about two-cycle engines and why they are bad for the environment.
- IV. Stacie Whitesides - Race and Equity Task Force: Eli Webster introduced. Race equity plan for city of Hyattsville. First draft was in April. Staci spoke to the draft document and what they were working on. Wants our two committees to work together, maybe in transportation and housing and others. Also, changing the name of Magruder Park. Theresa spoke about access to green spaces, free from contaminants and not negatively impacted by large industry. There are positive links between green space and health in children and adults. She can see that being a part of both our committees. Rich said he had a copy of what was presented to the council and suggests that HEC can go through it and pick topics of interest and go through anything we want to work on at the next HEC meeting.

- V. HEC Proposal Planning for CY21 - Theresa spoke about dedicating a portion of HEC meeting to do some planning on budget items. Rich asked if, given the current situation, is there even any money to be had? Danny said we are not in a budgetary recession. With 65% of budget coming from property taxes. Any expenditure should be for something that is really needed and well thought out. Theresa said this is also about making sure we are in sync so that when we come up with plans we have an understanding of the timeline so we are more efficient. Ben spoke to the timeline that we should have our proposals out there by February so that when budget talks start in March they are ready to go. Megan said that in the past we looked at having things done by the end of December/early January to have things done because it has to go through our liaisons first.
- VI. Announcements and Notices - Jim spoke to the Shade Tree Board. There were three areas of discussion - a) finding old trees in Hyattsville that may be hundred or more years old b) any fines related to cutting down trees go back to purchase more trees c) the tree planting initiative based on the trees that Dawn secured from a grant.
- VII. Motion to Adjourn