

Hyattsville Environment Committee (HEC)

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

HEC members: Thaddeus Waterman (chair), Jared Messinger (meeting minutes), Dawn Taft (staff), Ben Simasek (Council), James Ball, Melissa Schweisguth, Joseph DeMarco, Rayya Newman

Guests: Scott Wilson (former Council member 89-05)

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome, Committee Roll Call, & Guest Orientation.
2. Approval of [February meeting minutes](#). **APPROVED.**
3. Introductions for New Member
 - a. Popcorn introductions of HEC members for Rayya
 - i. Rayya's Vlog: <https://www.youtube.com/c/AllofOurHomes>
4. [Plastic Bag ordinance](#) - [Letter of Support](#) Discussion
 - a. Hybrid approach to reducing single use bags. Plastic bag ban at point of sale & minimum 10 cents fee for paper bags. Fees are kept by the business; it is not a tax. Ban includes compostable bags (they don't fully break down during compost process)
 - b. Some local businesses have expressed concerns; want more time to consider and prepare for this to pass
 - c. Will be voted on during the April 3, 2024 Council meeting
 - d. PG County also considering ban or similar approach to Hyattsville (one of the recommendations in the County Climate Plan)
 - e. James: Could the City facilitate a reusable bag swap? Some residents may have excess, others may have none.
 - f. HEC votes unanimously to support the Plastic Bag ban
 - g. HEC votes unanimously to approve the letter of support for the Plastic Bag Ban
 - i. Thaddeus will submit the letter on March 31
5. Review [draft of guidelines](#) for HEC recommending legislation
 - a. Ran out of time - Revisit in April 2024 meeting
6. HEC Strategic goals for 2023
 - a. Review [2018 HEC Gap Analysis](#) and [Committee Worksheet](#) (scope, objectives) as starting points
 - i. Ran out of time - Revisit in April 2024 meeting
7. [Local Government Leaders for Electrification](#) - Recommendation Discussion

- a. Pledge for local leaders to encourage electrification of their cities
 - b. Thaddeus: Does HEC want to draft a letter of support for Hyattsville City Council to commit to this pledge? Thaddeus drafted [an initial letter for HEC to provide input](#).
 - c. James: Do we feel this fits into HEC's priorities? Electrification needs to be paired with cleaning up Hyattsville's grid/source of energy.
 - i. Should we develop a carbon neutrality goal for Hyattsville?
 - d. Ben: We can encourage local elected officials to sign on, but HEC can advise on how the City can meet these targets. Can HEC advise on other programs available that the City isn't yet taking advantage of?
 - e. Melissa: If Hyattsville signs on, we should be serious about taking these steps.
8. Announcements
- a. Question from Jared: Are we able to start meeting in person again? Dawn and Ben to check with City and we'll discuss in April 2024 HEC meeting.
 - b. March 28-29: Montgomery County Energy Summit: [Montgomery County Energy Summit \(mcenergysummit.org\)](https://mcenergysummit.org)
 - c. March 22: Conference in DC discussing IRA: [The Inflation Reduction Act's Climate and Energy Provisions: A Six-Month Progress Report | School of Public Affairs | American University, Washington, DC](#)
9. Adjournment.