

# Hyattsville Environment Committee (HEC)

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 11, 2023

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

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

**Guests:** James Wigley, Scott Wilson

**Note:** Daisy Bett no longer a HEC member

## Agenda Items:

1. Welcome, Committee Roll Call, & Guest Orientation.
2. Approval of [March meeting minutes](#): **Approved**
3. Plastic Bag ordinance update
  - Update from Ben: The [Better Bag Bill measure](#) is looking likely pass in PG Co legislature. Would go into effect starting Jan 1 2024. Potentially stricter than what Hyattsville was considering for a City measure.
  - The City of Hyattsville has sent a letter of support to the county.
  - Opportunities for the City of Hyattsville to engage in education campaigns to raise awareness about the ban for greater compliance
  - Will be good to see how the county rollout goes; do we need more compliance/enforcement? This could inform whether we decide to move toward our own City ordinance. No action needed at this point.
4. In-person meeting update
  - Ben/Dawn looking into possibility of using Prangley for a hybrid meeting option. Other City committees are doing this.
  - City Council and committees will likely be going back to in-person in the fall.
5. Hyattsville Sustainability Plan Discussion
  - James: [City Sustainability Plan](#) will be moving toward finalization of the plan and adoption in the summer 2023. Is there opportunity for HEC to provide some formal feedback (deadline of May 20)? And what is the appropriate window (timing)?
  - James will create a google doc to collect input for next month's May 9 HEC meeting. We will discuss/synthesize input. Ben, Eduardo and Dawn can then channel our feedback to City council.
6. Review [draft of guidelines](#) for HEC recommending legislation
  - No edits suggested– thank you Thaddeus!

- Recommendation to send the guidelines to Laura Reams for consideration of adoption: **Approved. Thaddeus will send to Laura.**
7. HEC Strategic goals for 2023
- Review [2018 HEC Gap Analysis](#) and [Committee Worksheet](#) (scope, objectives) as starting points
  - Regarding the Committee Worksheet: changes will need to be approved by City Council– do we need to provide a summary of the changes and what is the best way? **Thaddeus will touch base with Laura**
  - Regarding the HEC Gap Analysis: the document is an older aspirational brainstorm of ideas/potential initiatives for HEC. [Here](#) is a new collaborative Google doc for new brainstorms. **ALL: Please contribute your ideas for [HEC Strategic Goals for 2023](#).**
8. Announcements
- [Earth Day Cleanups](#) on 4/22: Registration is open! Share with your networks
  - Family Day May 6 @1:30pm in Driskel Park. Tree theme and family fun activities
  - Invasive ivy grant: Grant received! Meetings underway to launch the project. Congratulations to Dawn and her team!
    - i. Goats arrive in beginning of May
9. Adjournment.