

# Hyattsville Environment Committee (HEC)

## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

**HEC members:** Thaddeus Waterman (chair), Dawn Taft (staff), Janet Nackoney (notes), James Ball, Malgorzata (Gosia) Bereziowica, James Wigley, Joseph Demarco, Rayya Newman, Jared Messinger, Melissa Schweisguth

**Guests:** None

### Notes

1. Welcome, Committee Roll Call, & Guest Orientation
2. Approval of [December meeting minutes](#): **Approved**
3. Public Comment Period
4. HEC Elections for 2024
  - a. VOTE: Chair for 2024: **Thaddeus Waterman**
  - b. VOTE: Co-Chair for 2024: **Melissa Schweisguth**
  - c. VOTE: Recorder for 2024: **Janet Nackoney**
5. Climate Action Plan (CAP) Proposal Review (James)
  - a. [City Council motion](#) for development of a Climate Action Plan
  - b. Purpose: To encourage the City of Hyattsville to establish a comprehensive decarbonisation strategy
  - c. Recommend the City establish a specific GHG reduction target in terms of percentage and year with milestones that should be incorporated into all city decisions. Promote coordination and alignment with the Metropolitan Washington Coalition of Government (COG), PG County's CAP, Maryland's CAP, and the Hyattsville Sustainability Plan
  - d. Seeking a vote to approve, then pass to DS to bring to City Council.
  - e. VOTE: Approval to send this motion to DS to present to City Council  
**APPROVED** (9 yes, 0 no)
6. How to best leverage Metropolitan Washington Council of Government resources
  - a. Postponed to next meeting
7. Alternatives to Environmental Depot Discussion (Melissa)
  - a. Hyattsville was supposed to get a zero-waste center as a one-stop shop for recycling and disposal of hazardous waste, bulk items etc, but funding didn't pan out.
  - b. Is there an opportunity to still pursue this idea? What could be prioritized/doable? Could there be an opportunity to partner with another municipality like College Park (or Community Forklift) that is already doing

this and learn from them. There is a lot of support in HEC to pursue the idea of an Environmental Depot for Hyattsville.

- c. Next step: DW will look into this and see if there is more information available. She noted that DPW is running low on space in general.

#### 8. Driskell Park Master Plan Discussion

- a. Hyattsville soliciting resident input on Phase 1 of the Master Plan ([diagram of the current park redesign concept](#)). The project began its planning in 2018 ([HelloHyattsville 2019 design Phase 1](#)). Did HEC provide any input? How can we obtain more insight into this process?
  - i. New planned parking lot along the southeast side of the park; more pavement in general– some concerns.
- b. DW: Public comment is directed through HelloHyattsville (just closed on Jan 5th). Hal and Priya are taking leadership.
- c. Request from HEC to hear from a City staff member who might have more information on the Driskell Park redesign process.
- d. Gosia has volunteered to look more into the feedback process and report back to HEC. Has requested that we put this on the agenda for Feb/March so that we are educated about the concept/plan in advance of planning what actions we want to take for feedback etc.

#### 9. Announcements

- a. RN: Creative Thinking workshop for homeowners: tentatively planned for April. Seeking a recommendation from HEC that the City partner with the Creative Thinking workshop for added support. Will add to next month's HEC meeting agenda.
  - i. JD: We should ensure alignment with the HEC bylaws/handbook to ensure there is no conflict of interest.
- b. TW: Maryland General Assembly starting up soon
- c. DW:
  - i. Invasive ivy removal grant: Next [volunteer training](#) on **1/13/24 (spread the word!)**. Arranging an upcoming meeting with Hyattsville's tree canopy stewards to develop a strategy to address the remaining trees until the grant ends in May. More information on the program [here](#).

#### 10. Adjournment.