

Hyattsville Environment Committee

October 13, 2020

Attendance:

Theresa Goedeke, Chair
Rich Canino, Vice Chair
Jim Groves, Secretary
Megan Haidet
Brie Welzer
Janet Nackoney

Danny Schaible, City Council
Ben Simasek, City Council
Dawn Taft, City of Hyattsville DPW

Greg Smith

I. Welcome, Committee Roll Call, & Guest Orientation

- Chair Goedeke opened the meeting at 7:07pm.

II. Approval of meeting minutes

- Approval of Minutes - Janet/Rich

III. Use of “chat” feature in Zoom Webinar during committee meetings (Theresa)

- Theresa spoke about the “chat” room and that in some cases there were comments on chat that should have been discussed on the call.
- A couple different options:
 - We only use chat for technical questions
 - Dawn can watch chat and let us know
 - Let both chat go on but transcript chat notes (chat can be saved)
- Some discussion. Dawn Taft said that she will keep an eye on chat during the meeting and alert us if anything is on there. Theresa said she would also keep an eye on the chat as well. Suggested that the saved chat will be saved and relevant information will be added to the notes.

IV. Discussion about how best to capture meeting minutes (Theresa, Jim, Janet)

- Theresa explained the situation and asked for thoughts. Jim spoke about minutes and summarized that he thought the minutes should be a little more

detailed. He also suggested that we work collaboratively (if possible) on the minutes in real time. Theresa spoke about the importance of capturing the main point of the discussion, motions, voting record. Dawn said that it is important for the Board to go in and review the minutes and make changes/comments as soon as possible after the meeting. It was decided that for the time being we continue doing the minutes, but with more reviewing and editing from the entire committee.

V. Discussion of “HEC Proposal Planning Cycle: Draft Budget Alignment Schedule” (Theresa)

- Theresa put together a schedule of what our alignment between HEC and the City budget might look like. She shared a document (Proposal Planning Cycle - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/18wTBWDYj85iqjr4PfzslLp8M1grmbmkY8MTu1bsSV-o/edit?usp=sharing>). There was discussion about sharing the timeline with the City Clerk. Councilmember Simasek mentioned that there could be different departments affected by the proposal so the sooner to get the proposal in the better (meaning January rather than February). Councilmember Schaible again suggested we ask the City Clerk Laura Reams.
- There will be an email to Laura asking for her thoughts and asked that everyone go into the document and make any changes.
- Rich asked what level of information is needed for proposals? Level of detail - source, justification, costs.
- Jim said that for our purposes we should provide as much detail on “source, justification and costs” but it would be up to the City to move beyond that.

VI. Updates from Dawn on Metro/Shuttle pass and HEC selection process etc. (Dawn)

- Metro/Shuttle - the program halted due to COVID at this point. In 2022 it will be possibly considered again. Not sure Council will approve this due to low participation. Discussion ensued.
- HEC Selection Process - According to City Clerk, there is no rule around how many terms someone may serve or anything on diversity. City looking to revamp the selection process in the near future. Megan said that if we could get an update on interest, especially when there is a full committee, it might be good information for committee members who maybe want to step down. There is a wait list for full Committees. When there is a spot open, the people on the waitlist are contacted. Discussion ensued. Dawn said that the City Website shows the committee names and when terms end. Danny said that there could be a more systematic way to review candidates.

ACTION for Dawn Taft: List of interest in the Committee & Time Line for Revamp of Committee Regulations.

- VII. **Gas Powered Leaf Blower (GPLB) Ban (GPLB) (Danny)** - Danny said that we strategized how to approach this and then come up with some draft legislation. Hope to have something to the Committee before the end of the year. Zoom meeting tomorrow with a group in Mont. County that is looking into putting in a similar ban.

VIII. **County Stormwater facility plan (Dawn, Danny, Ben)**

- Ben shared a link to a presentation regarding the County Plan for the 9 Ponds Overview. DPW Director Lesley Riddle had some issues with the presentation and Ben spoke to those concerns. There needs to be focus on the water upstream because it will just exacerbate the issue because the water won't reach the floodplain in high rain times. Presentation here:
<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1IrrzpqNXsV-1shhRSAN3GoVqOksTwquHfdbbcCX-56zU/edit#slide=id.p>

IX. **Collaboration with Planning Committee (Ben)**

- Planning Committee meeting next Tuesday to change some zoning has been requested for the area just north of NW High School. Asked that if anyone from HEC wants to liaise with the Planning Committee it would be great. Ben will forward more information to HEC.

X. **Announcements or Notices**

- Question from Guest: Greg Smith asked about the update for the Waste Collection and Pay as you Throw review. He also asked about the Stormwater Management Plan.
 - Jim said that he will get information and set up a meeting so we can report out to the Committee.
 - Danny said that there was not a draft on the Pay As You Throw review.
 - Announcement - Janet said that they had stream clean up with the Recreation Committee. Dawn reminded her to share the information for reporting purposes.

XI. **Adjournment**

- A. Janet - Motion to adjourn.

Zoom Chat:

19:54:49 From Greg Smith : The program isn't well known, and the case could be better made to the residents. How has this been pitched to apartment dwellers?

20:14:57 From Ben Simasek to All panelists :
<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1IrrzpgNXsV-1shhRSAN3GoVqOksTwquHfdbCcx-56zU/edit#slide=id.p>

20:22:46 From Greg Smith : One of the big obvious problems is that all of these plans rely on obsolete storm data and fail to account for global warming. This has been the case with Sacred Heart and Magruder Pointe. The County Council just put on hold a bill that would begin to address this systemic failure.

20:24:37 From Greg Smith : The regs for construction-phase and post-construction control are inadequate, and the DPIE fails to inspect and enforce.

20:26:39 From City of Hyattsville - Committees to Greg Smith and all panelists :
Greg I will ask for your questions to be put on next agenda

20:31:29 From Greg Smith : The County-wide Zoning Re-write and Map Amendment are gift-wrapped for developers.

20:36:33 From Ben Simasek to All panelists : Dawn, we had another one at University Hills Park. 12 volunteers, didn't count bags of trash, but enough to fill a MNCPPC pickup bed