

Hyattsville Environment Committee (HEC)

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 17, 2022

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

HEC members: Rich Canino (chair), Daisy Bett, Jared Messinger, Melissa Schweisguth, Thaddeus Waterman
Dawn Taft (staff), Ben Simasek (Council)

Guests: Allison Kole

Agenda Items:

1. **Welcome, Committee Roll Call, & Guest Orientation.**

2. **Approval of [April meeting minutes](#)**

a. Approved unanimously

3. **Verizon unused space initiative** (Allison)

Allison is a resident in HVL who would like to see an empty Verizon lot at [5504 44th Ave](#) converted to a City-owned and managed park, or improved by Verizon in ways that improve environmental impact (e.g., make it permeable, add trees). She shared her proposal for the lot improvement and outlined her engagement with Verizon to date, noting Verizon's willingness to sell/transfer it to the city (e.g., sell for \$1). However, their timing, level of commitment and desired terms are TBD. Verizon's City needs to evaluate feasibility and determine what approach makes most sense. Ben noted that the applicable sector plan does not flag the area/lot for green space, but many committee members . Ben will talk to Lesley and Jim about the feasibility of this and this will be discussed at a later meeting. (See [HEC minutes from 6/8/21](#) re: earlier discussion about this initiative.)

4. **Update on pollinator corridor** (Rich)

a. Sustainable Maryland facilitated a discussion among Green Teams in Route 1 corridor (Colmar Manor to Greenbelt) about a coordinated Pollinator plan as part of their annual meeting with the green teams. Individual cities have their own pollinator initiatives and agreed that some coordination or collaboration would be good, but there hasn't been a firm commitment to continue meeting to develop a joint plan. University Park is holding a meadow day on June 25th (Saturday) and would like other cities along the corridor to hold coordinated events. Dawn asked Rich to send her information as she would like HVL to hold something.

5. **Ivy removal discussion with CCAN** (Thaddeus)

Tabled, CCAN could not attend the HEC meeting

6. Announcements

- a. Earth Day cleanups and Arbor day planting report back (Dawn, Ben, Melissa)
 - i. Duck Pond: Ben led, had 53 people who collected 48 bags of trash and 16 of recycling.
 - ii. Melrose Park: Janet led. Dawn reported back, they cleaned up the waterways
 - iii. NW Branch at W HVL/Kirkwood: Melissa led, had 30 volunteers who collected 40 bags of trash and 30 of recycling, along with two scooters, a bike, spoke fence posts with barbed wire, and a large construction pylon.
 - iv. Tree planting for Arbor day: Dawn reported that McLachlan park food forest is 75% planted
- b. HVL sustainability plan (Rich)
 - i. City selected two people per committee, invited Rich and Thaddeus from HEC
- c. Public works open house: Will include tours, free food, seed sale (HVL Hort), plant giveaways, kids activities, tree pruning guidance, Audubon habitat program (media [article](#)), entertainment. [Website info](#).

7. Adjournment 8:35 PM.