

Charleston Green Team Meeting

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

5:30pm to 7:00pm

Meeting Held Virtually

The public may view by Zoom at the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83116641320?pwd=MVpBa1F2VWhzVDM0QnNyOWYyTVhCQT09>

Passcode: 433815

Phone: 929-436-2866 or 301-715-8592

Webinar ID: 831 1664 1320

AGENDA

- I. Welcome
- II. Adopting the minutes from the June 29, 2021 meeting
- III. "How to Become a Solar-Friendly Community through SolSmart" – presentation by Nick Kasza, Sustainability Program Manager, National League of Cities
- IV. Suggested topics from the Environment & Sustainability Justice Committee of the NAACP
- V. Updates:
 - A. City Council Environment & Recycling Committee – Chair, John Kennedy Bailey (invited)
 - B. Energy – Emmett Pepper
 - C. Communications – Linda Frame & Patti Hamilton
 - D. Composting – Justin Marlowe & Emmett Pepper
 - E. Glass recycling update – Ted Armbrrecht
 - F. Recycling at public events – Linda Frame
 - G. Recycling facility update – Rod Watkins
- VI. Other business/announcements
- VII. Next meeting: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 5:30pm
- VIII. Adjourn

Charleston Green Team Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 29, 2021

The Charleston Green Team held its fourth meeting at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. Present were Chair Emmett Pepper, team members Linda Frame, Patti Hamilton, Justin Marlowe, and advisory member Pam Nixon.

Minutes from April 27th & June 1st meetings were approved.

Policy Proposals:

Emmett introduced Natalia Rudiak who works in a four-state area with ReImagine Appalachia. They work on reclaiming abandoned lands, remediating brownfields, capping oil & gas wells, and providing health care & securing pensions for coal workers. Their goals include:

- modernize electric grid
- expand energy efficient & clean manufacturing
- more sustainable transportation system
- relaunch the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps)

As part of their local government officials outreach, they recommend a letter of support for ReImagine Appalachia and a resolution for full council to consider. Sending the letter and resolution to Mayor passed unanimously.

Emmett introduced Dan Taylor with the Blue Green Alliance, a national coalition that unites labor unions and environmental groups. Emmett moved and Linda seconded the motion to amend the letter suggested by BGA by taking out reference to funding amount and adding a bullet point. The letter as amended passed unanimously and will be sent to the Mayor.

Pam Nixon presented a letter to the Mayor for consideration regarding issues with ethylene oxide in Charleston & Kanawha Valley. She announced there will be Town Hall meetings with DEP on the subject. After discussion of minor amendment, Emmett moved and Linda seconded the motion to send the amended letter to the Mayor. The motion passed unanimously.

Website: Linda reviewed the proposed language for the Green Team website. The proposal passed unanimously and Linda will get the language to city staff.

Recycling at public events: Linda suggested that recycling be instituted or reinstated at events such as Live on the Levee and at Power Park. Brent Webster provided information about the problems experienced in the past (recycling bins used for trash) but it can be done. A letter will be sent to the Mayor with this suggestion.

Updates:

Energy: Emmett reported that the proposals from last month's meeting are now in bill form for Council's consideration.

Communications: We will start posting meeting agendas on the Green Team Facebook Page and work on a process for approval of content to be posted.

Composting: No report.

Recycling Glass: No report.

Recycling Facility Update: Rod provided an OpEd from The Charleston Gazette Mail.

Announcements:

In discussion of beginning in-person meetings, it was determined by consensus to hold virtual meetings for summer and then revisit the issue.

Patti reported on a visit to Newport, KY (population less than 16,000) where they have made great use of riverfront including safe walkways and lighting. She suggested we all look at ideas we can get from other cities we visit.

The next meeting is July 20th at 5:30.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patti Hamilton

NAACP Environmental & Climate Justice Committee

Suggestions for the Charleston Green Team

We agreed to use emails to share with each other our suggestions for further discussion for Pam to consider taking to the Green Team. Suggestions in the meeting included:

- * expanding public transportation;
- * improving walkability with benches,
- * better sidewalks, etc.;
- * using green bonds or increased taxes on real estate transfers to pay for improvements;
- * city-sponsored recycling by Pay per bag to landfill to increase recycling;
- * subsidized rooftop or vacant lot solar for low-income homes, including landlords of low-income housing;
- * building affordable housing.
- * increase the number of EV charging stations
- * Transition city fleet to EVs

-Share materials on proven projects and green bond funding or targeted tax increases from around the country, including from the group of mayors that has been working on these issues

ETO letter from Charleston
