

Green Team meeting minutes February 15, 2022

Attendees: Mayor Goodwin, Director Webster, Patti Hamilton, Linda Frame, James Young, Justin Marlowe, Emmett Pepper, John Butterworth, Ted Armbrecht, Rod Watkins, Pam Nixon, and Nikki Smith. Patti called the meeting was called to order at 12:02.

Patti welcomed Mayor Goodwin to the meeting. \$250,000 in unassigned funds for the Green Team has been allocated. \$500,000 additional is proposed into Green Team's budget. Budget now includes money for recycling bins. She expressed her full support for the Green Team. The Mayor wants a robust sidewalk program. Additionally, Team Up to Clean Up events are coming up soon and Mayor Goodwin asked for help with promoting them.

Patti asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 2022 meeting. Rod moved. James seconded. Unanimous.

Guest Speaker: Tom Aluise

Patti introduced the meeting's guest speaker: Tom Aluise with the WV DEP Youth Environmental Program. His department works with scouts, sports teams and other youth groups to promote recycling, water conservation and other environmental issues. The focus is on K-8 grade. Partners are always needed.

James asked if Tom works with other communities. Tom works statewide and gave the example of Mason County 4-H which is heavily engaged.

Ted brought up the large amounts of cardboard and how to best educate people on how to recycle them. He asked for success stories on glass. Tom suggested social media. He said that glass is really hard to recycle in the Kanawha Valley. Cabell County recycles glass. A company from Ohio comes to pick it up. They allow anyone to come but you have to pay for a fob. Ted suggested getting large box stores to use empty trucks to truck the glass out after a delivery.

Linda asked about Tom sharing info so the Green Team can produce educational videos.

Emmett discussed a recycling facility in Charleston instead of taking it to Raleigh. He asked for the best areas to target such as schools or big businesses as well as how much contamination is allowed in collected materials. Tom said each facility is different and it depends on their machinery. He suggested targeting places that use a lot of paper right now since the market is good for those materials, as well as metals and aluminum.

Tom can supply bags and gloves for clean ups and arrange for pick up of the collected trash.

Patti suggested that Linda and she get together with Tom to discuss promoting recycling.

Team Up to Clean Up

Patti invited John Butterworth with the City Planning Department to talk about Team Up to Clean Up events. They are from 9AM – 1PM on Saturdays in April.

- April 2: downtown
- April 9: Kanawha City
- April 23: North Charleston and West Side
- April 30: South Hills

Patti suggested we involve organizations we are members of to help get the word out. Emmett asked about trail opportunities in South Hills. John answered that a 70-acre tract of land, the Jones Tract, near Holz elementary is being developed to connect it with other trail systems. Linda asked if motorized vehicles are allowed. John said the land is deeded against that.

Gorilla Recycling Proposal

Patti asked for a motion if there is interest in discussing Gorilla Recycling's proposal. Ted moved and Linda seconded. To discuss.

Emmett clarified that we would send this to the Mayor and copy the committee. Rod mentioned recycling report done in 2021 and that Gorilla's proposal comes close to fulfilling the report's goals. Pam asked if this is a MERF or a recycling facility. Rod said it's a plastic recycling center. MERF would need approvals and permits.

Linda asked about the term plastic recycling and that the need is not limited to that. She also suggested that we pass along this proposal but the city would need to work on the details. Ted asked if there are other facilities show a success story. He stressed that glass is a critical component. Patti suggested that Gorilla provide references.

Emmett recommended that the Green Team provide early questions to the Recycling Committee. For example, could the facility be placed at Slack Street? This would be Gorilla's first facility of this kind. James agreed that the Green Team provide the proposal to the Environmental and Recycling Committee so they can do further vetting. Linda suggested that solar is part of the proposal that is forwarded.

Rod said Gorilla doesn't have other facilities that are this small and that the company has adjusted to the tonnage that is possible for this project. It is unique because it is small. And it would need clean recyclables.

Patti asked for clarification on process of sending the recommendation to the Mayor and the Environmental and Recycling Committee. She will ask for a final proposal from Gorilla including clarification of the term "plastic" and requesting success stories to include with the proposal. Does the team have to review the letter? Nikki said that letter can be sent to each member. Emmett said we could vote on the conceptual nature of the letter.

James pointed out that it is not our role to continue to deliberate over the details. Linda suggested that we are passing this along to the committee for them to more fully vet. Ted had concerns with us not doing more research before we forward this on. He thinks this would cause concern about the Green Team by City Council. Pam agreed with Ted and she doesn't want the city to have concerns with our recommendations. James said these questions about process also include how best to interact with committee and send them proposals.

Patti asked for a motion to state that she will email Gorilla some questions and ask for references to add to the proposal. Ted moved and James seconded. Unanimous. Patti will report back at the March meeting.

Patti agreed that we do need clarification on our role.

New appointees

Patti submitted names of potential nominees discussed at previous meetings.

Updates

Emmett – no update from Environmental and Recycling Committee. Patti asked if we could be on the agenda to discuss our role.

Communications – Linda attended recycling committee meeting to introduce the GREEN team. Patti attended finance committee when funds were approved for green initiatives.

Emmett added that there were some HVAC systems slated for two community centers and suggested that maybe funding could be used to do a demonstration project with the Kanawha City Community Center (not one of the two slated for upgrades).

There were no other updates.

Patti would like to hold a separate meeting to discuss our future plans and to discuss the new funding and opportunities it creates.

Pam said that Carol Brockmorton is available to give an overview of the WV Solid Waste Management Board at the April meeting to include recommendations for a different types of recycling facilities.

The next meeting is March 15, 2022 at noon by Zoom.

April's meeting may be in person. Patti asked Nikki for a location. She recommended the AV room on third floor of City Hall.

James moved to adjourn and Linda seconded. Unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 1:30PM.