

Green Team Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2022

Attendees: Patti Hamilton, Linda Frame, Justin Marlowe, Ted Armbrecht (on Zoom), James Young, Rod Watkins, Nikki Smith, Emmett Pepper and Director Brent Webster. Patti called the meeting to order at 12:02. It was the Green Team's first In-person meeting.

Justin moved and Rod seconded to approve the minutes from March 15, 2022 meeting. Unanimous.

New appointees to the Green Team: Scott McMillon and Stephanie Hysmith have been suggested to Mayor Goodwin as potential Green Team members. Pam Nixon has resigned as advisory member. Patti suggested we send a reminder to the Mayor about the two nominee suggestions and ask Tom Aluise to be our new advisory committee member. Emmett recommended considering diversity in our selections.

Justin recommended Tomi Bergstrom. Patti will remind the Mayor's office that we need a new member and James will ask Tom Aluise if he would consider being our advisory member.

Updates: Councilmember Pepper gave a report from the **Environment and Recycling Committee**. The GT letter submitted to Mayor Goodwin and Chairperson Cook prompted a good discussion about Gorilla's proposal. The company will come to next committee meeting to present. The City Manager will also be asked to join. No date is set for that meeting. There was discussion of the new recycling bins. Linda, Rod, and James attended to represent the Green Team. Benchmarking: Data entry is starting to happen. The deadline is July 1 for implementation plan for benchmarking ordinance. Emmett discussed including the Kanawha City Community Center but the HVAC plan is already underway. Other buildings are being considered.

Communications update: materials will be produced to go along with the new recycling bins. Patti attended the Communities to Clean Energy focus group webinar sponsored by the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. They are developing a national program with an education focus and rollout in the fall. She will share questions that came up. There are two more Team Up to Clean Up events to go.

Other updates: Director Webster gave an update on the new bins. 5,000 48-gallon toter bins should be delivered the second or third week of May. About 3,000 will be distributed and will have a serial number. Residents can still use old bins, if needed. Putting a QR code on them so residents can get updates about Charleston's curbside recycling program was discussed. The city wants to do face-to-face distribution of the bins and have a flyer to hand out. Patti suggested we put together the flyer with the city staff. Tina Stenson is the new person to work with as Mackenzie Spencer has moved on. Linda will email her. James said he thought he saw a flyer already produced. The QR Code will link to the website and accompany the flyer. Linda will talk to Tina about both.

Rod said that Gorilla had access to free bins. He suggested listing on flyer what isn't accepted. Patti said that some households that recycle might not need a big bin.

James asked if there is an opportunity to expand to schools in conjunction with an education component. Maybe bins could also go to schools. Director Webster said they would like to get into all of the businesses.

Green Team 2022 goals: Patti asked Councilmember Pepper to talk about how best to use the \$250,000 in funds allocated to the Green Team. One idea is a solar project. Another idea is recycling bins for Live on the Levee. He suggested reaching out to Jonathan Storage, City Manager, to discuss the process of requesting funds from the Green Initiative Fund. Would spending proposals need to be voted on by the Environment and Recycling Committee? It was discussed that the GT would come up with ideas but the committee would vote on them. This is a one-time pool of funds with no deadline for its use.

Another idea is sidewalk beautification, working with the similar city volunteer group that has just gotten restarted.

Another is to use the money to pay for solar projects and/or to augment other projects, or to use it for matching funds for grants. C to C is going to have grant funding.

Linda suggested using money for recycling education surrounding new bins. Needs branding with the city. It's a big announcement for the city. Rod said that the education part is the most important piece and needs to stress no contamination. Start at the elementary school level and collaborate with Kanawha County.

Patti suggested the GT have a focus as opposed to a priority and that it remains recycling education. The GT will continue to provide ideas to the Environmental and Recycling Committee. More ideas were a launching a walkability study (working with the sidewalk committee), making Charleston a Tree City USA, and conducting a bicycle trail study. Nikki will find out if there is an existing study (from 2016?). These ideas were adopted by consensus.

A future meeting will have a speaker from Morgantown Green Team. Linda will invite them. Patti will ask Jonathon Storage to attend the May 17 meeting (his number is 348-8014).

Councilmember Pepper discussed his Earth Day bills. One would require trash cans outside of businesses that sell take-out food and require ashtrays near entrances of businesses where people can legally smoke. The other would legalize and regulate electric scooters.

Rod moved to adjourn. Justin seconded. The meeting adjourned at 1:30PM