

Green Team Meeting Minutes May 23, 2022

Attendees: Patti Hamilton, Linda Frame, Justin Marlowe, James Young, Rod Watkins, Nikki Smith, Emmett Pepper, Jonathan Storage, Jared Lanham, and Brent Webster. Patti called the meeting to order at 12:03.

Rod moved and Justin seconded to approve the minutes from April 2022 meeting. Unanimous. Rod noted a typo that has been fixed and Justin provided the correct spelling of a name.

Patti introduced City Manager Jonathan Storage to present on the city's Green Initiatives Fund (GIF) established February 7, 2022. It is broadly defined and provides money for the Green Team. With a majority vote by the Green Team, an idea can be presented to Mr. Storage. Any purchases or contracts over \$25,000 must be approved by City Council. Patti would likely be invited to attend that meeting. \$250,000 is the current fund balance. The City Manager's office would handle getting quotes, putting out a proposal, and all administrative work. The Green Team would help pitch ideas to City Council.

Patti asked if an idea could be brought in partnership with other groups such as the Sidewalk Improvement Committee. Jonathan replied that project sharing is an option that can be pursued and most ideas would fit into the intent of the GIF. He will make sure the idea doesn't duplicate existing efforts. This is a dedicated fund and not part of the general services fund. Long-term commitments that would fundamentally change policy could possibly be the only exception. This special revenue fund is not tied to the general revenue fund in any way and crosses fiscal years so it doesn't go away and it gathers interest.

Rod asked about the Gorilla proposal. Jonathan replied that it was discussed at a senior staff meeting today. It could become a project with the Land Reuse Agency (LRA) whose key mission is to put vacant land to use. The LRA has more flexibility to do land deals than the city and would also be interested in revenue sharing that could come from this project. The land could be leased for a nominal value and the LRA would shepherd the deal. City council has more red tape than the LRA. Rod said that Gorilla is currently looking for a commitment from the city and surrounding communities. Jonathan replied that they would have to commit that the price is lower than Raleigh County and that they take all the materials in the city's recycling program. The Raleigh County arrangement can be stopped at any time. Gorilla would need to provide an agreement that the city wouldn't be liable for their business consequences. An exclusivity agreement would be entered into. Jonathan asked who pays the tipping fees. Emmett said the city would pay the tipping fees with money coming from selling the materials collected.

Rod is concerned that the land issue could be slowing things down. In his discussions with Gorilla he learned that they can seek the land on their own, if needed. Jonathan flagged that he did not see any language or time frame in Gorilla's proposal for evaluation periods in the

arrangement. He suggested the tipping fee could be passed along to other cities. Jonathan plans to talk with Councilmembers Cook and Pepper about the city's official response to Gorilla.

James asked if there is a funding source for printed materials for the new bins and other educational work or would that come from the GIF. Jonathan said that creating brochures, mailers with CSB bills, and other efforts can all be financed with GIF.

New Green Team appointees – Mayor Goodwin said she would welcome a list of names to be sent to her. Stephanie Hysmith, Tomi Bergstrom, and Scott McMillon have been discussed so far. Rowan Zoeller (in attendance) asked to be added to the list. Quenton King has submitted a bio. This list of 5 will be sent to Mayor Goodwin. James recommended asking Tomi to be the advisory member since she works for the WV DEP. Emmett suggested saying that they have expressed interest. Rod said he isn't comfortable with voting on people he doesn't know. Letter could be to all of them. Emmett will get Linda the emails so she can reach out to list (5 names) and ask for a bio. Linda moved and James Young seconded. Unanimous.

Tree City USA designation - Patti and Justin went to the Beautification Commission meeting which supports the idea. The criteria to join are: maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry, and celebrating Arbor Day. Director Webster estimated that we would need \$96,000 to meet the criteria and if tree removal and replacement is factored in and is eligible then we have enough. Justin moved that we submit a letter to Mayor Goodwin, Councilmember Cook and Mr. Storage recommending that Charleston become a Tree City USA. Linda seconded. Unanimous.

Updates – Environment and Recycling committee has not met since the last GT meeting. Director Webster – the new recycling bins are ready for distribution. Need to begin to disperse the bins soon as storage is running out.

Communications – Patti and Linda attended a Zoom call about the roll out of the new bins. Ideas include a QR code printed on materials, a one-piece flyer in CSB, radio ads, and an announcement at Live on the Levee.

Anyone wanting to help with recycling on Live on the Levee should contact Rowan Zoeller.

Linda will remind about the Morgantown Green Team about speaking at the June meeting.

There was discussion about adding more recycling bins for Live on the Levee. Jared ordered more bins and talked with the Parks and Recreation Department about taking over all the recycling so there would be consistency. This was done immediately following the meeting.

Dennis Strawn expressed interest in joining the Green Team. His name was added to the list that will go to the Mayor. Linda will ask for addresses/wards from new nominees.

Next meeting is June 21 in person. Justin moved we adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 1:35PM.