

## **Green Team Meeting Minutes**

### **June 21, 2022**

Attendees: Patti Hamilton, Linda Frame, James Young, Jim Kotcon (Morgantown Green Team), Emmett Pepper, Rowan Zoeller, Rod Watkins, Brent Webster, and Metro News.

Patti called the meeting to order at 12:02.

Quorum established.

The May 23 meeting minutes were approved. James moved to approve, Rod seconded. Unanimous.

Patti and Linda introduced Jim Kotcon with the Morgantown Green Team which was established in 2006 from interest in the Sierra Club's cool cities campaign which Morgantown was a part of. The Morgantown Green Team advises the City Manager and City Council on sustainability issues. Jim became chair about 3 years ago. They have 4 areas of focus: energy (greenhouse gas reductions and energy efficiency), green buildings and infrastructures (LEED certified fire station), recycling and solid waste management issues, and land use/parks/trails/green space.

A success is a 17% net reduction in 4 large energy-consumption buildings in Morgantown using energy efficient lighting. The Team has also pushed the city to adopt other conservation methods including A/C usage and, in spite of a hot year in 2010, still saw energy savings which run about \$45,000 to \$50,000 each year.

Strategic plan (on GT website) was developed and a lot of effort put into public engagement/outreach. The Team holds public seminars on composting and other efforts. Morgantown's comprehensive plan for 2023 – 2033 is under consideration and the Team will encourage sustainability. In 2016, the Morgantown mayor signed on as a climate mayor pledging that Morgantown would reduce GHG emissions in line with Paris Accord. GT developed a climate action plan to help the city which is about halfway on target. They are working to increase solar production through a Purchase Power Agreement.

Shepherdstown and Lewisburg had a GT but Jim is not sure if they are still functioning. Morgantown had 15 members at one time, dropped down to 6, and are up to 8 or 9 now. Jim is working to replace himself and rebuild the network which has been difficult during COVID.

Rod asked if there is a recycling plant in Morgantown. Jim explained the challenges that the city has faced. Currently hauling single stream collected materials to Pittsburgh. The city has a recycling outreach coordinator to do public training to help reduce contamination and encourage recycling in commercial sector. Press releases and tabling are helpful as are recycle

bin inspections. “Oops” tags are placed on bins and the hauler does not pick up bin that week. Reduces wish-cycling. Refrigerator magnets with info can also be helpful.

Rowan asked why the city and county don’t work together. Jim answered that city council and county commission collaboration is hard to do. They did not communicate with each other when the systems were changed.

Patti thanked Jim for his time and suggested we have a joint Zoom meeting with the Morgantown Green Team in the future.

**Updates** – Environment and Recycling committee will meet to discuss Gorilla proposal. Will meet June 30 in the evening.

Emmett is monitoring city’s work to install artificial turf and that the city look at health impacts from rubber on children and to consider an EPA report that should be coming out soon.

City Manager Jonathon Storage sent a letter to Gorilla. Emmett said that land reuse agency had positive interest and will begin reviewing sites.

Director Webster – team is currently rolling out bins but it is a tedious process. Would like to include commercial locations at some point. Anticipates an increase in recycling with residents. Patti asked about incorporating schools. Brent said that it will take involvement from the school but that they would like to get into more schools. Increase in cardboard recycling is already being seen.

Rowan asked about new lids for the containers at Live on the Levee. Events from Capitol Street to Court will have the bins for all events.

Linda will invite Tina Stinson to come to next GT meeting to discuss Communications. Patti suggested we also go over DEP materials with her.

**New Green Team appointees** – letter was sent to Mayor with names except for Scott McMillon who did not reply. No reply yet on future appointment. Patti will follow up.

**Tree City USA designation** – letter has gone to Mayor and Jonathan Storage. Beautification commission also followed up with its own letter.

Gorilla proposal was positively responded to by city.

Patti asked for photos to be used on GT Facebook page. Linda asked others to invite their friends to like the page.

Next meeting is July 19 in person or virtual at noon. Rod moved we adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 1:17PM.