

## **Green Team Meeting Minutes**

### **July 19, 2022**

Attendees: Patti Hamilton, Linda Frame, James Young, Quenton King, Tina Stinson, Rod Watkins, Justin Marlowe, Ted Armbrrecht, Emmett Pepper, Brent Webster, Nikki Smith, and Sargent Oldham. Dennis Strawn in attendance.

Patti called the meeting to order at 12:01. Quorum established.

Patty introduced the newest member of the Green Team, Quenton King.

The June 21, 2022 meeting minutes were approved. Justin moved to approve, Quenton seconded. Unanimous.

Patti introduced Tina and asked her to describe what she does in communications for the City and how we can help. Tina can help create educational materials and push them out through city channels. For press releases, we can work together and they will be topic-dependent on how they are handled. Patti and Linda will set up an in-person meeting with Tina. An initial focus can be education on the new bins and what materials are allowed by producing videos and other visuals. Final approval would come from Tina. Tree City USA is another example of where we could use some help.

Patti introduced Sargent Oldham with the Charleston Police Department for a discussion on pedestrian safety. He provided materials on fatalities and sections of code that mention pedestrian safety. All three recent fatalities could have been preventable if the person had crossed in a marked cross walk. There might be an educational opportunity for the public and how to cross safely. Ted asked about rules for scooters. They are still currently still illegal in the City. New bill would say they cannot be on the sidewalk and need to follow traffic laws. Justin asked if there are some ways to put up signs.

Councilmember Pepper asked if it is the affirmative duty that pedestrians have to check the cross walk and does their right-of-way only apply if they are far enough into the intersection. Sargent Oldham replied that pedestrians have the right-of-way and read the code. Need to educate pedestrians as well as drivers. Enforcement needed but hard to do. The Sargent handed out materials.

### **Updates**

**Recycling:** Councilmember Pepper said that the Environment and Recycling committee met last week to hear from Gorilla and discuss their proposal which is under consideration by the City. Locations are being researched. The new site would take glass. Charleston would be the first of these new facilities to be launched by Gorilla. Under Gorilla, tipping fees would be under \$45/ton versus \$175/ton to haul materials to Beckley.

Director Webster said there are recycling bins available for city events. There are always more opportunities available for education. The City is also working with some schools. Ted recommended reaching out to the school board. The City will be looking at how the new bins increase amount of recycling collected and will eventually be using a special truck to lift the toters. Once things get rolling then can reach out to more schools. To date, 3,600 have been handed out and there are 1,400 left. Green Team members can reach out directly to Director Webster if they hear of someone needing a bin via email or by calling 304-348-6831. Justin will reach out to neighborhood associations. Bags no longer needed. Gorilla will be able to recycle 17 items so will be expanding plastics that are accepted. Need to look into safety issues if glass is accepted.

**Communications:** Patti and Linda will meet with Tina.

**New members:** Quenton King was appointed at the City Council meeting on 7.18.2022. Still need an advisory member. Nikki will check to see the appointment process for advisory members. Emmett welcomed Quenton and highlighted his experience with environmental justice, in particular. All names under consideration would be good for advisory members.

**Tree City USA designation:** no update on letter that has gone to Mayor and Jonathan Storage. Emmett offered to introduce resolution if needed. Justin needs to be sure we have numbers for tree budget. Patti will also follow up.

**Gorilla proposal:** Rod has met with people looking at various sites. Site is undetermined at this point but things are going smoothly.

**Other business:** Linda brought up expanding green space and attracting grocery store ideas discussed with Quenton.

Dennis Strawn explained a DOT program to reconnect communities that have been divided, a federal program that is seeking proposals by October 13. It would fund the planning process for ideas such as connecting areas impacted by interstates or rail lines. He will email link to full document. Patti will check in with Jonathan Storage. There would be follow-up grants to implement the plans that are created. Emmett suggested adding it to the Green Team's August agenda and sending letter to the City. Dennis could draft.

Next meeting is Wednesday, August 17 in person or virtual at noon. Ted asked that the meetings remain in person. Ted moved we adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 1:21PM.