

Green Team Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2022

Attendees: Patti Hamilton, Linda Frame, Rod Watson, Justin Marlowe, Stephanie Hysmith, Dennis Strawn, Quenton King, Ted Armbrrecht, Brent Webster, and Emmett Pepper.

Patti called the meeting to order at 12:00. Quorum established. Rod asked to change the last page of the October minutes to “agreement” from “lease” in reference to the Gorilla update. Justin moved to approve the minutes from the October meeting, Rod seconded. Unanimous.

Guest Speaker

Patti introduced Christy Brown from Glass, Smash = Sand. Christy had over 300 requests for glass pick up. There is a two-bag limit for glass pick-up. No food residue is accepted but labels can stay on. She collected 4,200 bottles in her first week and produced 61 sand bags weighing between 50 and 70 lbs, 50 of which will be donated to the City. Other organizations that might be interested are Kanawha County Parks and Recreation and Blenko Glass. Patti suggested reaching out to Rebecca McPhail with the WV Manufacturers Association and Steve Roberts with the WV Chamber of Commerce for other ideas. Christy said that prepping the bottles in the time-intensive piece. Other ideas are sandblasting, winter road treatment, and landfill cover. Waste Management might be a partner. Negative response from restaurants and bars as they don't want to pay for it. Volunteers are needed to both pick up and crush glass, provide outreach, and find a source for the final product. Rod and Quenton offered to help. Christy can be reached at glasssmashwv@gmail.com

Pedestrian Safety

Justin said the City is in line with state code which has not been updated for at least 80 years. He is getting information from other states and will provide an update at a future meeting. Limitations might be a state code problem. The City can be more restrictive but not less so.

Green Team Vacancy

Dennis asked to be considered to fill the current vacancy. Rod moved and Quenton seconded to nominate Dennis to fill the vacancy. Unanimous. Patti will send a letter to Mayor Goodwin.

Planning Department Meeting

Emmett, Quenton, and Linda attended a meeting with the City's Planning Department staff which is currently revising the 2013 Comprehensive Plan. Quenton discussed helping them create a separate sustainability plan. Rod moved and Justin seconded creation of a Green Team subcommittee on this issue. Unanimous. Linda, Quenton, and Patti offered to serve on the committee. Emmett added that other Green Teams sometimes have sustainability plans and we could consider those ideas along with other issues.

Updates

The Environment and Recycling Committee has not met since the last Green Team meeting.

Communications Committee: Director Webster said there is a lot of household trash contamination found by his crews in the new blue bins. Linda and Patti will make some education videos before Christmas and post on the Green Team Facebook page.

Gorilla proposal: a report from the City Manager should be coming soon. The project is proceeding.

Reconnecting Communities Grant: Dennis talked to City staff and a proposal was submitted. Dennis suggested a mechanism be put in place to notify the Green Team.

Opportunities in IRA/IIJA: Patti mentioned that we are not being utilized and that she will contact the City Manager. Quenton shared an email with funding opportunities including a \$250,000 grant that can be used for a variety of projects including hiring a staff person. The application is due January 16, 2023. Ideas for the funding are outreach for the Gorilla facility or creation of a recycling liaison. Rod said that communication from the City is needed to know if grants have been applied for and, if not, how we can help. Director Webster suggested we reach out to Councilmember Cook. No match for recycling grant is needed.

Airport expansion: Dennis provided an update that a group, Friends of Coonskin, has been created. Majority of the impacted property belongs to the airport and is leased to the county or shared via an agreement. Options are to do nothing, construct an emass system of 200 feet, or build the full 1,000 safety overrun. Councilmember Pepper said replacement would need to be 1:1 for the land lost and a concern is that the mitigation might not fully replace the loss of access to nature for Charleston residents. Ted asked about expanding the Blackwell property in North Charleston. Needs to be similar to Coonskin not soccer fields.

Sports Complex green initiatives: no update.

Tree City USA: Beautification Committee is applying by end of 2022 and will consider it in 2023. Director Webster said that all criteria will be met. Anna Forbes is the new chair of the Beautification Commission. He does not think establishment of Charleston as a Tree City USA requires a City Council resolution but he will follow up with city manager.

Announcements – Dennis suggested that Charleston be recognized as a bicycle-friendly community. He will gather more information for discussion at the January meeting.

Next meeting is Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at City Hall. There was discussion of the February 15 meeting being a field trip to Glass, Smash = Sand.

Quenton moved to adjourn. Unanimous.