

Green Team Meeting Minutes October 26, 2022

Attendees: Patti Hamilton, Linda Frame, Rod Watson, Justin Marlowe, Stephanie Hysmith, Dennis Strawn, Rowan Zoeller, Quenton King, Brent Webster, Tomi Bergstrom, Emmett Pepper, Dennis Strawn, and Nikki Smith. Dan Vrendt Planning Director for the City.

Patti called the meeting to order at 12:03. Quorum established. There was no quorum in September. Rod moved we accept the minutes from the August and September 2022 meetings. Justin seconded. Unanimous.

Opportunities on IRA follow up presentation

Patti has not heard back from her outreach to the city. Brent suggested we reach out to the city manager to find out who best to contact as well as Matt Sutton, Chief of Staff for Mayor Goodwin. Quenton confirmed that there is no urgent timeline as of yet.

Dennis met with Matt and is unsure if the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application due on October 13 was run through Council. Councilmember Pepper said that \$25,000 or more has to run through Council so this deadline was likely missed.

There is a December 6, 2022 deadline for Capacity Building for Disadvantaged Communities grant. Dan said that approval of both grant applications and how the money is spent both are typically run through Council. Matt told Dennis that there is a contact for someone who writes the grants. This would focus on the West Side and downtown connections. Patti said she would follow up with Matt and Jonathan. Dan said that Melissa Taylor (with the City Manager's office) and Jane Bostic write grants.

Sports Complex Green Initiatives

Patti will move this to the updates section of future agendas. Councilmember Pepper said there is another public meeting on November 1 at 6PM at Roosevelt Center.

Yeager Airport Runway Extension Project

Linda gave an overview. Justin mentioned that Coonskin Park is outside city limits but the city would have a seat at the table. Rod asked about the rail trail that runs through the park. Dennis said the Elk River Trail will still be there and said there are two phases of improvements: 1) bring up to current FAA regulations, 2) add another 1,000 feet onto the runway. Linda will forward email with meeting details. Councilmember Pepper said this is a good issue for the Green Team to follow. The administration's position is to allow bigger planes and have an airport in WV that can handle more traffic especially with designation of New River Gorge as a National Park. He recommended thinking through other alternatives. If they are going to displace the park then setting aside one big park somewhere else would be a possible position to support. Linda will attend meeting on November 2 and report back to the Team.

Updates:

Recycling Committee has not met. No updates.

Recycling Bins: Director Webster gave an update that 4,000 bins have been handed out and volume to Beckley has gone up. Patti asked him about challenges that his crew face. Some residents are putting household garbage in the bins. Sometimes the bins are too heavy. People are putting cardboard next to the bins and then gets wet. Education could include a reminder to put all materials in the bin or in a bag, watch for excessive contamination, and inform residents living on a narrow street to use bags so the crew can access them. The city is working on how to include rentals units that have Waste Management and want a blue bin, as well as requests for a second bin. The plan remains to get into schools once the crew no longer needs to go to Beckley. Rod said that if the Gorilla proposal comes through, they will provide the bins to businesses and schools and Waste Management might pick up recycling, including business cardboard. Councilmember Pepper asked if and when we want to completely phase out the plastic bags. Director Webster suggested we keep the bags for other situations. Rod said that Gorilla doesn't want bags. Stephanie asked if there is a way to have a drop off spot. Director Webster recommended people go to Slack Street. The issue with wet cardboard is the weight and the city pays by the ton. Stephanie said that renters need to have a place to take recycling especially if landlords won't allow bins.

Councilmember Pepper said that he hopes to have an option for people who want to participate in glass recycling and it should be announced in this Sunday's paper. He said that Ted and he have been at an Energy Summit in Stonewall and a WV manufacturer said there are lots of different types of charging stations (pass-through, 8-hour, and in between). The in-between might be a good option for the city to provide so people can charge vehicles while they visit the city. This person would be a good speaker for a future Green Team meeting.

Rowan asked about including churches for places to get bins. Director Webster said the city should be able to help but doesn't have the capacity to provide service to every church. Rod pointed out that the plastic bags are a downstream problem.

Communications: Linda and Patti have been unable to get a hold of Tina. They would like to put out info on recycling education. Stephanie brought up the idea of rain gardens. She asked if there is recycling at the Capitol and said there needs to be education to restaurants about washing dishes instead of using Styrofoam and plastic. Director Webster said he would reach out to Tina and would also be a part of any press conference we put together.

Patti brought up walkability and said that currently the onus of safety is on the pedestrian. She asked Justin to review city code and see if there is an update to make to protect pedestrians.

Patti and Linda will meet on communications.

Rod said that the Gorilla proposal is progressing and the city manager is drawing up an agreement.

The US DOT Capacity Building in Disadvantaged Communities program will pick 30 grants awardees. Dennis suggested that we recommend to the city that there is a person to look at all the various grants.

Announcements: Vice Chair James Young has resigned due to work conflicts. Patti will let the mayor know and suggested he send her a letter. Agenda item for next meeting to suggest replacements. She asked the 4 advisory committee members to let her know at November meeting if they have an interest. Will need to elect a new vice chair.

Next meeting is November 16 at noon.

Meeting adjourned at 1:23 PM.