

Charleston Green Team Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 29, 2021

The Charleston Green Team held its fourth meeting at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. Present were Chair Emmett Pepper, team members Linda Frame, Patti Hamilton, Justin Marlowe, and advisory member Pam Nixon.

Minutes from April 27th & June 1st meetings were approved.

Policy Proposals:

Emmett introduced Natalia Rudiak who works in a four-state area with ReImagine Appalachia. They work on reclaiming abandoned lands, remediating brownfields, capping oil & gas wells, and providing health care & securing pensions for coal workers. Their goals include:

- modernize electric grid
- expand energy efficient & clean manufacturing
- more sustainable transportation system
- relaunch the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps)

As part of their local government officials outreach, they recommend a letter of support for ReImagine Appalachia and a resolution for full council to consider. Sending the letter and resolution to Mayor passed unanimously.

Emmett introduced Dan Taylor with the Blue Green Alliance, a national coalition that unites labor unions and environmental groups. Emmett moved and Linda seconded the motion to amend the letter suggested by BGA by taking out reference to funding amount and adding a bullet point. The letter as amended passed unanimously and will be sent to the Mayor.

Pam Nixon presented a letter to the Mayor for consideration regarding issues with ethylene oxide in Charleston & Kanawha Valley. She announced there will be Town Hall meetings with DEP on the subject. After discussion of minor amendment, Emmett moved and Linda seconded the motion to send the amended letter to the Mayor. The motion passed unanimously.

Website: Linda reviewed the proposed language for the Green Team website. The proposal passed unanimously and Linda will get the language to city staff.

Recycling at public events: Linda suggested that recycling be instituted or reinstated at events such as Live on the Levee and at Power Park. Brent Webster provided information about the problems experienced in the past (recycling bins used for trash) but it can be done. A letter will be sent to the Mayor with this suggestion.

Updates:

Energy: Emmett reported that the proposals from last month's meeting are now in bill form for Council's consideration.

Communications: We will start posting meeting agendas on the Green Team Facebook Page and work on a process for approval of content to be posted.

Composting: No report.

Recycling Glass: No report.

Recycling Facility Update: Rod provided an OpEd from The Charleston Gazette Mail.

Announcements:

In discussion of beginning in-person meetings, it was determined by consensus to hold virtual meetings for summer and then revisit the issue.

Patti reported on a visit to Newport, KY (population less than 16,000) where they have made great use of riverfront including safe walkways and lighting. She suggested we all look at ideas we can get from other cities we visit.

The next meeting is July 20th at 5:30.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patti Hamilton