

Green Team Meeting Minutes

June 21, 2023

Attendees: Patti Hamilton, Linda Frame, Jennifer Pauley, Dennis Strawn, Quenton King, Councilmembers Pepper, Solomon, and Steelhammer.

Patti called the meeting and quorum established. Quenton moved to approve the minutes from April and May 2023. Jennifer seconded. Unanimous.

New Business

There was discussion of draft recommendations presented to Mayor Goodwin on May 17, 2023. The Mayor recommended a facilitated strategy planning session later in 2023 and putting the recommendations into a strategic plan. Quenton recommended sending it to Councilmember Burton. Patti mentioned she is unclear who submits it to City Council. Councilmember Solomon asked what is the difference between the current format and a strategic plan and said it would be OK to send to the full City Council. Quenton and Patti said a strategic plan would have action items for the Green Team included. A strategic plan could include two or three of our recommendations and add a timeframe. Patti mentioned we need to take pieces and have small wins. Dennis said that we don't have the capacity and would need to seek help from others. Quenton moved to approve the recommendations and send them to the Mayor and City Council. Jennifer seconded. Unanimous.

Patti and Quenton discussed the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant for \$77,000. The Mayor asked the Green Team to come up with a plan on how to spend it. Once the plan is submitted, the money will be received. The deadline is January 21, 2024. The EECBG committee was established with Quenton, Dennis, and Jennifer as members and will draft a plan.

Endorsement of Land Protection Act

Councilmember Pepper discussed the Act. Its goal is to enhance access to residents and protect biodiversity. The goal is 75% of residents live within 10-minute walk of a park. Charleston is at 52% level. Additionally, 5% of city land is for parks and 2.5 % of land is natural. Linda moved that the Green Team endorse the Land Protection Act. Quenton seconded. Unanimous. Patti will work with Councilmember Pepper to draft a letter to chairs of Parks and Recreation and Ordinance and Rules Committees with a copy to the Mayor.

Unfinished business/Updates:

Patti will submit a slate of nominees' bios for a new Green Team member to the Mayor to include Robin Sylvester, Dennis Strawn, and Andrew Early. Councilmember Pepper suggested Mark Talbert is also included. Mark agreed. Quenton moved and Jennifer seconded the approval of the slate. Unanimous.

Patti said the Bicycle friendly designation will be included with other designations at a future date and sent to the Mayor.

Updates:

No updates from Environment and Recycling committee as it hasn't met.

Communications: No updates. Regular postings on Facebook.

Opportunities in IRA – no updates.

Yeager Runway extension – no updates.

Sports complex – board has been created.

Tree City USA – no updates. This is in the hands of the Beautification Committee now.

Audience member Beth asked if the Green Team has a position on Yeager runway expansion. Patti said that Green Team is monitoring the issue. Friends of Coonskin had an event and is distributing signs. Beth expressed her support for protecting Coonskin Park. Patti asked if it is out of our purview since it is a county park. Beth said that the City could take a stance.

Linda and Rowan went to Glass Smash Sand at the end of May. Christy Brown is writing grants so she can get a bigger machine. Linda plans to go again on Thursday, June 29. Volunteers are needed the last week of the month for about an hour.

Patti would like to turn the What To Do With Stuff information into a brochure to distribute at lawyers' offices and other locations. Jennifer suggested arranging the information by site, not item. It could also be shared on social media sites like Freecycle. Jennifer volunteered to call area shelters to find out what they accept and need. Councilmember Pepper suggested running the list past estate sale professionals. Kanawha County has a website available. Green Team funds could be used to hire a graphic designer to create the brochure. Councilmember Solomon suggested setting up a list with 3 or 4 sites by category (e.g., 3 or 4 sites that take used books).

A consultant will be hired for the Benchmarking report. \$20,000 of Green Team funds has been approved.

Dennis asked if there is more information about Gorilla submitting another proposal to build a recycling facility. Patti will include that on the July agenda.

The next meeting is July 19, 2023 from noon – 1:30PM, City Hall, 3rd Floor. Patti will check in with members to ensure a quorum.

Jennifer moved to adjourn, Quenton seconded. Unanimous.