



Charleston Green Team Meeting

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

12:00 – 1:30 pm

The meeting will take place in person and over Zoom at the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88907165682?pwd=Mms0SnRqZVVYcUI3NjEvNHR3bmllUT09>

Passcode: 230627

Phone: 305-224-1968 or 309 205 3325

Webinar ID: 889 0716 5682

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Adopt the minutes from meeting on November 15, 2023

New Business:

1. Guest Presentation - Thomas Ramey, Commercial Sales Representative with Solar Holler
2. Report from Nominating Committee / Election of Officers for 2024
3. Green Team Participation in WV Environmental Council Environmental Day at the Capital – Feb 13th.

Unfinished Business:

None

Committee Reports:

1. What to Do with Stuff Committee
2. Designations Committee
3. EECBG Proposal (deadline moved to April 30, 2024)

Updates:

- A. City Council Environment & Recycling Committee – Chair Brent Burton, Transfer Station Proposal
- B. Communications – Linda Frame, Patti Hamilton, Robin Sylvester
- C. Opportunities in the Inflation Reduction Act
- D. Sports Complex Green Initiatives
- E. Tree City USA
- F. Consultant for Benchmarking legislation
- G. Community Bike Plan Recommendation
- H. Report to City Council

Announcements

Next meeting: (3rd Wednesday is January 17, 2024)

Adjournment

Green Team Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2023

Attendees: Patti Hamilton, Linda Frame, Quenton King, Andrew Earley, Robin Sylvester, Stephanie Hysmith, Jennifer Pauley and Rowan Zoeller. Guests: Morgan Wisniewski, Councilmembers Beth Kerns and Emmett Pepper, Autumn Long, Perry Bryant, Morgan King and Gary Zuckett.

Patti called the meeting to order at 12:04 and quorum was established.

New Business - Patti welcomed Autumn Long, Director of Sustainability Initiatives with the Appalachian Solar Finance Fund (SFF). The SFF provides financial and technical support to public entities, nonprofit organizations, and local businesses to install solar power. They provide grant sub-awards, solar readiness roof repair funding, technical assistance contract, and bridge loans and credit enhancements. An example for Charleston is to engage in a contract to produce a feasibility study to identify solar-ready sites. SFF can also provide grant-writing support. She discussed federal incentives currently available including Solar Investment Tax Credit (ITC) which would cover 30% of total project cost (reimbursable after project is started). Charleston would be eligible for this as well as the Energy Community Bonus (additional 10%). SFF is working with Gauley Bridge where the City Hall is going solar. Huntington City Mission and other faith institutions are also engaged as well as labor union local halls and nonprofit entities.

Wayne County Schools is an example of a large-scale project. Charleston can work directly with solar developers or hire a third-party contractor to do a feasibility study. Quenton asked if they provide assistance in more than one area. Autumn said they want to know the overall need and want to be prudent on how they spend their funds. Quenton asked the price of a feasibility study. An energy assessment study can be very helpful to identify demand and look at roofs. Councilmember Pepper discussed how energy efficiency could be incorporated into such a study. Can also look at energy storage options. Charleston would be eligible for as much as 50% in assistance. City is already obligated to do a feasibility study and the Green Team has approved funding for it but this could be revisited to use SFF technical assistance funding.

Jennifer moved to approve the minutes from October 2023. Robin seconded. Unanimous.

Nominating Committee for Green Team Officers – Terms are expiring for Quenton, Patti and Linda. Patti appointed Justin, Andrew, and Stephanie to be on the nominating committee. There were no objections. Anyone who is interested in becoming an officer should contact the committee which will report back prior to December 20 Green Team meeting. Robin asked about a list of duties. Linda said Secretary takes minutes, monitors email, and updates website. Chair puts together agenda. Officers meet to discuss agenda and talk about other items.

Unfinished Business:

Community Bike Plan Recommendation: Feasibility study draft was submitted by presenters from the last meeting and could cost as much as \$85,000. The Regional Intergovernmental

Council (RIC) could cover 80% of the cost. Jennifer moved to submit the plan to the City with our recommendation including a cover letter written by Patti to include financial options. Robin seconded. Perry will work with Ryan to draft an executive summary. Unanimous.

EECBG Proposal – deadline has been extended to April 30, 2024. Quenton recommends we go with energy efficiency as one of our DOE blueprints.

Committee Reports:

What to do With Stuff Committee: Patti shared a document she has drafted which will be placed on Green Team website and Facebook page.

Designations Committee – no report.

Updates:

City Council Environment & Recycling Committee met to hear a presentation from Waste Management on a proposed transfer station. No committee action was taken. Recycling would be collected and shipped to Pittsburgh. Target launch date is summer 2025.

Communications: new logo has been added to Facebook page and website.

Councilmember Pepper discussed that street lights are being changed to LED with less glare and working toward dark skies protocols.

Recycling Facility Proposal: The article on transfer station presentation was sent to Gorilla Company which had proposed a facility when the Green Team first began meeting. The City Manager received an email that Gorilla would be interested in making a proposal again. The Green Team has already gone through the process of recommending that the City review their proposal.

Robin suggested inviting a Solar Holler representative to our next meeting to discuss examples of how much money the City could save with solar installation. Councilmember Pepper said we are looking at a study for the whole city. He suggested we ask for a discussion of examples of completed or proposed projects like Wayne County Schools or Gauley Bridge City Hall.

Quenton moved to adjourn. The next meeting is December 20, 2023 from noon – 1:30 PM, City Hall, 3rd Floor. Meeting adjourned at 1:28 PM.