



Charleston Green Team Meeting

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

12:00 – 1:30 pm

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88473668929?pwd=THk4MEwwdWFWNEdHSTFQQjBMc29nZz09>

Passcode: 853593

Phone: 305-224-1968 or 309 205 3325

Webinar ID: 884 7366 8929

AGENDA

Welcome

Adopt the minutes from meeting on December 20, 2023

New Business:

1. Charleston Updated Comprehensive Plan feedback

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. Green Team Strategic Plan Facilitation
- B. City Council Environment & Recycling Committee – Chair Brent Burton,
- C. Communications – Linda Frame, Patti Hamilton, Robin Sylvester
- D. West Virginia Environmental Council Environmental Day at the Capitol (Feb. 13)
- E. Opportunities in the Inflation Reduction Act
- F. Sports Complex Green Initiatives
- G. Consultant for Benchmarking legislation

Announcements

Next meeting: (3rd Wednesday is February 21, 2024)

Adjournment

Green Team Meeting Minutes December 20, 2023

Attendees: Patti Hamilton, Linda Frame, Quenton King, Robin Sylvester, Stephanie Hysmith, Andrew Earley, Tomi Bergstrom, Dennis Strawn, Rowan Zoeller, and Jennifer Pauley. Guests: Ben Mishoe (City Manager), Thomas Ramey with Solar Holler.

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

Patti mentioned the What to Do with Stuff handout that she gave out at a recent City Council meeting was well received.

Quenton moved to adopt the minutes from the November 2023 meeting and Robin seconded. Unanimous.

New Business - Patti welcomed Thomas Ramey, Commercial Sales Representative with Solar Holler. Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) are their current focus and he discussed their project with Wayne County Schools. With a city like Charleston, PPAs would be a good option but there are grants available for cities to purchase their own system, instead of buying power via a PPA. No upfront money needed with PPAs. The growth in solar is creating jobs. City Manager Mishoe said that the city is serious about looking into solar. Municipalities are eligible for 30-40% tax credit. They are comparing PPA and purchasing the system. Money come in the form of a rebate. Manager Mishoe has talked to the Wayne County Schools Superintendent. Patti offered that the Green Team could give information at a future City Council meeting and include Gauley Bridge as a nearby example.

Linda will send Manager Mishoe slides from Autumn Long's presentation from last month's meeting for more information about the Appalachian Solar Finance Fund.

There was discussion of aggregating the city's utility bills and how buildings must be touching each other.

Nominating Committee for Green Team Officers – Justin, Andrew, and Stephanie make up the nominating committee. The slate for officers is Quenton King for Chair, Jennifer Pauley for Vice Chair, and Robin Sylvester for Secretary. Linda moved that the nominations are closed. Patti seconded. Unanimous. Patti moved that we vote by acclamation. Unanimous. All new officers were elected for a one-year term.

Participation in WV Environmental Council E-Day - Linda discussed the history of E-Day and that it would be good exposure for the Green Team. Rowan could bring her display. Jennifer moved that the Green Team table at the February 13 event, Quenton seconded. Unanimous.

Unfinished Business: None

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 – when we do the strategic plan it would be good to include recommendations of designations.

EECBG Proposal – Quenton is connecting with Huntington City government to find out how it is approaching this opportunity. He is also emailing the National Renewal Energy Laboratory for its assistance. Deadline was extended to April 30, 2024. Jennifer has a contact that could help us write the grant for a small percentage of the funds.

Updates:

City Council Environment & Recycling Committee: nothing new on the transfer station.

Communications: Linda will rerun the recycling video from last year. Rowan asked for help with getting bins ordered for Live on the Levee. Patti suggested that Rowan reach out to Brent Burton, Chair of the Environment and Recycling Committee. Appropriate type of lid is needed with circles to limit what is placed in them. Patti will also reach out to Director Webster.

IRA Opportunities: November 2024 deadline for a \$10 million US EPA Environmental Justice and Civil Rights grant. The more partners the better. Rowan mentioned the West Side Association and trash removal might be a good project. Quenton will send info and Patti will share with the Mayor.

Benchmarking legislation: no updates.

Community bike plan: sent to Mayor.

Patti suggested that the Green Team do an in-person report to City Council each quarter.

The Mayor has approved Evan Hansen with Downstream Strategies and our strategic plan facilitator. The timeline has been changed and we hope to start in January. Patti suggested that Quenton be in touch with him to work out the timeframe.

Jennifer moved to adjourn. The next meeting is January 17, 2024 from noon – 1:30 PM, City Hall, 3rd Floor. Meeting adjourned at 1:09 PM.