

GREEN TEAM MEETING MINUTES – January 17, 2024

Meeting called to order by new chair, Quenton King at 12:01pm.

Attendees: Quenton King, Linda Frame, Robin Sylvester, Dennis Strawn, Jenn Pauley, Beth Kerns

Via Zoom: Patti Hamilton, Stephanie Hysmith, Joe Solomon, Andrew Earley, Clerk's office, Emmett Pepper

Patti moved to adopt December 2023 meeting minutes; Linda seconded. Unanimous in favor.:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Charleston Comprehensive Planning mentioned GT on pgs 52, 53 & 57 and our comments/recs; vote on final approval. Linda had concerns/edits about the 10-year plan timeline without having our Strategic Plan in place. Possibly include FB & website for further information. Andrew referenced the biking plan and adding that in. Dennis and the majority of room are in support of this.
2. EV charging, DC America, visit in Milton, Quenton & Jenn suggested mentioning GT in support of this as well. Council Member Solomon in favor of all the above.
3. Andrew mentioned "more green space" to be included as creation & preservation. At least clarification as far as size of "green infrastructure". Council Member Pepper defined "green space" including forests, preserves, the Boulevard banks – though vague & can be interpreted by various perspectives. Probably would not get a change on the resolution. What specifically is the 3% of preservation? Agreed that the 1982 study could be updated. Andrew stated again a mere mention from the GT for clarification of the 2023 Park Space Resolution.
4. Council Member Kerns suggested "community gardens" to be used and maintained by locals. Possibly get sponsors for roundabout cost of \$1500.
5. Gray infrastructure (porous/pervious) is referenced and how water is absorbed/diverted in the city.
6. Stephanie mentioned "rain gardens" could be used for water puddling in the streets. Maybe talk to the Master Gardeners.
7. Council Member Kerns mentioned that city storm drains are not adequate for the city due to folks draining downspouts directly into the sewers. Council Member Pepper says there is a bit of cost to do this.
8. Discussed authorizing Quenton to write a brief comment regarding the plan, review by GT, then send to City next week. All in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. *What to do with Stuff* - no new meeting or business, though discussed printing a limited number of flyers for events, but using digital formats as reference either through a QR Code or FB or website to cut down on paper usage and waste.
2. *Designations* – no new business

3. *EECBG Proposal* - \$77,000 to Charleston. DOE recommends if you want less than \$250,000 you take it as a voucher to buy equipment for energy efficiency; or get technical assistance to get started and the consultant is paid directly. Does this coincide with Autumn's team? Not really but Quenton will provide clarification. He also suggests meeting with Council Member Pepper to assist in this.

4. *Communications* – Patti, Linda & Robin *met* last week. Reached out to Brent Webster regarding citywide cleanups. Every Saturday in April we think, but he will provide clarification. Robin will expand social media to Instagram and now cover Facebook also. OpEd to the paper regarding new chair and GT activities. Earth Day 4/22, Arbor Day 4/26 – what can GT do to celebrate and do things in the city. Supplies for tabling, quote from TGraphics \$521.75 includes 250 recyclable pens & tablecloth with our logos. We must submit an invoice to city for Green Initiatives Fund. Pens are cardboard, biodegradable and recyclable. Robin made the motion, Linda 2nd, no discussion, unanimously passed. Motion to accept Committee report by Patti, 2nd by Jenn.

UPDATES:

A. GT Strategic Plan Proposal has been sent to city manager & we are waiting for signatures to move forward.

B. City Council Environment & Recycling Committee - Council Member Burton not in attendance.

C. Communications – see Committee report above, #4.

D. WV Environmental Council Day 2/13 at the Capitol. Quenton will put out a sign-up sheet for those who can attend. Information to discuss what GT does. Robin will update Facebook and create more QR code laminates. Linda mentioned getting business cards. Council Member Kerns mentioned a “digital card”. Jenn says these are difficult to transfer. Dennis mentioned taking a picture of the contact or QR code. No definitive resolution on cards. Tree city USA application is completed and approved and sent to Arbor Day foundation. Discuss assistance at next meeting.

E. Opportunities in Inflation Reduction Act – no new updates.

F. Sports Complex – Mayor said start construction within the year.

G. Consultant for Benchmarking Legislation – Council Member Pepper discussed support from DOE seems easier and required to get \$77K – let's keep the conversation going.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Brent Webster, Director of Public Works, keep his standing spot in GT meetings although he has been absent.

Next meeting February 21, 2024; 3rd Wednesday of the month; Noon- 1:30p; City Hall 3rd floor.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Linda, 2nd by Jenn.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10p