

GREEN TEAM MEETING MARCH 20, 2024

Meeting called to order: 12:02pm by Quenton King

IN ATTENDANCE: Quenton King, Robin Sylvester, Justin Marlowe, Stephanie Hysmith, Patti Hamilton, Director Webster

VIA ZOOM: Rowan Zoeller, Andrew Earley, Linda Frame

Motion to adopt February minutes from 2/21/24 by Robin, Patty 2nd, all in favor to adopt.

NEW BUSINESS

Move to amend agenda to include Arbor Day by Quenton. All in favor for amendment.

1. Kick-off date for Strategic Planning (3 mo process, we meet, they work, joint planning with GT around mid/late May. Q recommends start date of April 15 for contract, kick-off meeting with Evan the 17th during our regular GT meeting.

2. 2024 Report on environmental bills discussed during Legislative session re: GT/City activities:

A. SB638 – Community Solar did not get to the vote

B. Net Metering - HB5422 – bill did not move / although a compromise was made

C. HB5018 Community Air Monitoring – bill died in Session and really only addressed citizens not polluters

GT should consider a continued push for Solar.

3. Arbor / Earth Day – One year anniversary of Charleston being Tree City 4/26, 4/22 – the City is having a ceremony 4/12 at Noon Edgewood Elem and spearheaded by Beautification Commission if anyone can be there to represent GT.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. GT Vacancy - Sent Ryan Hough and Dennis Strawn names to Mayor's office and they acknowledged receipt

2. Vice Chair opening – Nikki says Quenton can ask someone to chair a meeting if the Chair is unable to in lieu of nominating/appointing a new vice chair immediately.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. *"What to do with Stuff?"* – Patti brought the Gazette which featured a Clothes Closet. Also mentioned was a Foster Closet for donations. CASA and another group that collects for fostered children. We can reach out to DHHR to donate suitcases.

Stephanie reported on a newspaper article featuring "Community Bridge" in St. Albans – links to this organization has been put on Facebook. *(please see footnote at bottom of GT report for specific info and explanation)

Stephanie also discussed "Downsizing the Family Home" book by Marni Jameson.

2. *EECBG* – moved to City manager's office & working with grant writer on retainer / 77,000 strategy for the city to understand & address energy efficiency & carbon footprint. Deadline moved to April 30, 2024.

3. *Communications* – City cleanups emailed from Linda 4/6, 4/20, 5/4 may be fun to go as a GT group – 9a-1p – reply to email with best date to go as a team.

The Mayor will be at the 4/12 Arbor Day event at Edgewood Elementary.

Patti wrote the op-ed and is under review to submit hopefully next week. ACTION ITEM: Quenton & Patti will check with the Mayor's office if we are able to.. Linda recommends sending photo of Quenton and our logo.

Again discussed a QR code to be placed around town, stickers for at home reference, etc. for city/blue bin recycling as soon as a definitive answer is given.

UPDATES

A. *GT Strategic Plan Facilitation* - see above in New Business (1.)

B. *City Council Environment & Recycling Committee* – Chair Brent Burton absent from meeting.

C. *Charleston Dept of Public Works* – Brent Webster spoke to Lisa from Raleigh Co. to address the issue of #1 and #2 plastics. Director Webster states all 1s & 2s are accepted with no exceptions, that's why they have sorters at the facility. Lids do not have to be on. There is only about a 10% contamination rate at the facility. Rowan also received an email from Lisa with a list of what is acceptable and will forward that information to everyone.

New and different holes for the city bins have been purchased and will be used throughout the city.

D. *Consultant for Benchmarking Legislation* – item/updates will be folded into EECBG / this item will be removed from future agendas

Next meeting - April 17th, 3rd Wednesday – possibly the kick-off with Downstream.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 1:01pm by Quenton. 2nd by Patti.

* What To Do With Stuff Committee (1.) report by Stephanie Hysmith:

“Community Bridge in St. Albans was originally started by the King's River Worship Center by Pastor Chris Kimbro to organize backpack giveaways for children in the community. Its intention was to bring different churches in the area to work together.

Then in 2020 they received a large donation of clothing for foster children in the state. They were able to bring together all the churches in the area to take part in providing for these needy children and their foster parents. They receive truckloads of donations from the Kentucky-based Christian Appalachian Project and are now partnering with about 180 regional churches, hospitals, recovery programs, and school systems. In Sept. 2023, they formed their own 501(3)C non-profit and have relocated to a much larger warehouse.

In addition to helping foster children, they provide whatever is needed by anyone in need, supplementing what the Red Cross normally provides people who lose their homes due to fire or other situations. Everything is free.

It's very impressive how organized they are, prepared to serve anyone in need. The pastor said he'd be happy to make a presentation to our team or send someone else. I went to their open house, met with the pastor's mother, Vickie Kimbro, who gave me the tour.

They can always use furniture and household goods. This seemed like a good alternative to Goodwill and other charities.”