

Takoma Park Committee on the Environment
June 6, 2016 Meeting Minutes
Community Center

Attending: Lindsey, Riaz, Cindy (facilitator), Sat Jiwan, Paul, Jamey, Doug, Sarah, Gina, Tom (note taker), and Lauren (on phone)

Members of the public: Giuseppe Cimmino and Marty Ittner

1. **Minutes** from May 2nd approved.
2. Lindsey noted a county meeting on **zika** to take place the next day.
3. A brief recap of **Greenfest** was provided. Attendance was great (~1200-1500 people). EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy was very good.
4. Giuseppe was interested in the **little house** on a trailer that had been parked in the lot next to the Co-op for several days. What would have to happen to make those possible in Takoma Park? A zoning amendment would be needed from the county. Satjiwan will investigate.
5. Gina's update:
 - a. There is a lot of new **compost**; go get it, spread the word.
 - b. The new **enforcement position** will be with the police department; they're looking to hire that position shortly and it'll have a vehicle. The vehicle question is a little sticky as police didn't like the electric vehicle options. So might be a Chevy Volt.
 - c. **Budget** numbers available now. [*n*: Check w/ Gina to confirm any of these are accurate]
 - c.i. \$148,000 for interns, rebates, business energy efficiency, waste reduction planning
 - c.ii. \$363,000 for stormwater budget - - match for Flower Ave.
 - c.iii. \$90,000 for arborist's maintenance budget
 - c.iv. \$25,000 for tree planting
 - c.v. \$30,000 subcontract work, including invasives management
 - c.vi. \$1,004,048 tipping fees, etc.
 - c.vii. \$32,000 LED retrofits to community center
 - c.viii. \$500,000 Traffic calming, sidewalks
 - c.ix. \$500,000 ADA sidewalks
 - c.x. \$400,000 Safe walks to schools
 - d. Recommendations are being taken for **new stormwater program** next year
 - e. **Arborist's reports** are online.
6. **After the Energy Challenge** - - What themes should we pursue? Could do:
 - a. Backyard habitat / stormwater / lawn care - - could include mosquitoes
 - a.i. Could be based on the NWF program, at least in part.
 - a.ii. Does zika make this more timely?
 - b. Zero waste

- b.i. Could work better with renters and multi-family who don't have yards or don't control any yard.
 - c. Indoor air quality?
 - d. Transportation?
7. Paul updated on **tree canopy** issues. The Tree Commission has a different view of what 'tree canopy' means, exactly, than was used when measurements were last made. There's no good way to verify numbers. The 59-67% increase over the last ten years is probably due to measurement technique; LIDAR is better now. USFS has a good database of canopy goals around the country – perhaps we should flag that to the Tree Commission.
 8. A vote on the **plastic bag ban** was scheduled for June 15th. The Farmers' Market is now included. Looked like it'd go through.
 9. The county is tight-lipped on **green building standards**. Probably IGCC 2012 with some modifications – mainly several things being made optional. The comment period is over.

Lindsey also highlighted a meeting on **community solar** on June 14th. It'd just be a three-year pilot, with a 6MW carve-out, divided by service territory. But you can already go to the Montgomery County Solar Co-op, which just opened – it's for rooftop solar. There are zoning questions for community solar in the county that are creating a headache. Utilities have 45 days to submit their plans under the pilot. MD SUN has lots of information on community solar.

10. Cindy raised **green commuting** during Metro's Safetrack. Should we be promoting carpooling? Staged group bike rides? Can we be promoting options on listservs? Several felt that this would just be pushing things on people who are already transit users, not addressing longer term promotion of greener commuting options.
11. Jamey addressed **mosquito control**. There is a proposal for neighborhood mosquito patrols who'd clear out standing water and such. Who would one call to report standing water? Does 411 just refer to DEP? Lindsey will send around county's information; the city could pass that around or it could go to the Energy Challenge e-mail lists. The county is pushing CDC content. Action is needed, not just pamphlets.
12. In **other business**, Cindy has found Concord, MA's bottled water ban language.
 - Satjiwan to investigate zoning and related issues for little houses.
 - Lindsey to send around county info on mosquitos.
 - Cindy will circulate Concord, MA's bottled water ban language.
 - All should send comments on the mosquito patrols to Jamey.

The next meeting is July 11th.