

**DRAFT NOTES** *Committee on the Environment City of Takoma Park, Maryland*

**Notes for Monday April 3, 2017**

7:15pm-8:45pm, Takoma Park Community Center

Moderator: Lauren

Note taker: Hellen

Participants: Paul, Geoff, Sarah, Marty, Lindsay, Denis, Riaz, Cindy, Jamie

<b>Item</b>	<b>Proposed Minutes</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Preliminaries: Review and Approve Draft Agenda; Review action items; Adopt minutes	5 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Two items were added to the agenda:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ CoE membership and renewal of current members</li><li>○ Report from Lindsay on energy summit</li></ul></li><li>• Agenda approved as amended</li><li>• March 2017 minutes approved unanimously</li><li>• Action items from March<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Lindsey clarified with Larissa that info for county energy challenge should be sent to Gina, not SJ, to forward info to committee. DONE</li><li>○ Lindsey to post document describing challenge on listserv: NOT DONE</li><li>○ Water quality: Paul provided new option for Council review: DONE</li><li>○ Sustainable MD: Sarah compiled topic area list: DONE</li><li>○ Pesticide notification: Denis to draft plan: NOT COMPLETED</li><li>○ Geoff to review relevant materials; meet with Gina and Cindy: FORWARDED</li></ul></li></ul>
Public Comment	5 minutes	Stephanie Riddick, from the Montgomery County Sierra Club executive committee sat in as an observer. She remarked that she is glad to support Takoma Park and that the Sierra Club appreciates all that the cities do. Cindy asked her to comment on the county divestment bill. Stephanie said that green investors were offering good suggestions to the county officials.
Energy summit (Lindsay)	5 minutes	The 4 <sup>th</sup> annual county energy summit taking place on April 5 in Silver Spring. Mainly focused on commercial energy topics, but broader interest topics include Montgomery County Greenbank, EV charging, etc. Pepco and the County Executive will be there. Continuing education credit available. Link: <a href="http://usgbc/org.energysummit">usgbc/org.energysummit</a>
Department update (Gina)	5 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The dog park opened on April 2. Confirmed that nothing in the city code would prevent llamas from using the dog park. Gina has a very cute dog.</li><li>• Saturday April 8 is Arbor Day, with free trees to be given out at the library.</li><li>• Daryl and Gina will talk about streetlight project at Better Buildings Summit May 16</li></ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget sessions are happening next two Mondays (April 12 and 17) and the formal budget presentation to the council is April 5). A public session is scheduled for April 12.</li> <li>• Two infrared cameras are available for checkout at the library: one for iPhones, one for Androids. They can be used to scan houses for air leaks and they also have energy use meters.</li> <li>• Instead of another green home certification challenge, we're going to have a commuter challenge. The general idea is to have neighborhoods competing on reducing energy use (tied to greenhouse gas emissions) for commuting, but the details are still being worked out. The key metric could be something like percent improvement. It may be launched on May 17—Bike to Work Day—and run through the summer. A request for extra bike racks at Takoma Metro station was made, and the possibility of getting Capital Bikeshare involved suggested.</li> <li>• The new urban forest manager starts April 14.</li> <li>• Paul raised an issue from the solid waste management report: Takoma Park sends recycling to a landfill instead of MoCo waste to energy plant because of cost. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>ACTION: Invite urban forest manager to next meeting.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Sustainability budget proposed (Gina)	10 minutes	<p>A \$3k increase overall has been requested, which includes some reductions and an increase in the stormwater budget.</p> <p>CoE voted to support the budget with a \$5k addition for the water quality agenda.</p>
Regional climate & energy plan 2017-2020 (Sarah)	20 minutes	<p>Councilmember Schultz joined the meeting for this discussion. He is a member of the COG Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee. A copy of the plan was provided to the CoE. Highlights include a focus on racial equity.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Invite sustainability coordinator from Baltimore to address Green Team meeting</b></p> <p><b>ACTION: Cindy to set up work session to review report and identify opportunities for Takoma Park</b></p>
Energy challenge update (GINA)	5 minutes	<p>Georgetown will announce 10 finalists next month and winner in December.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ACTION: Gina to send some updates.</b></li> </ul>
Sustainable MD re-certification (Sarah)	10 minutes	<p>We need to update and add items to the previous (3 years ago) version. We need one person to volunteer for each major category and to work in teams to update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ACTION: Gina will send GoogleDocs template for sign-up</b></li> <li>• <b>ACTION: Cindy (and others ) will look for Word file of last version</b></li> <li>• <b>ACTION: Updates completed by May 1</b></li> </ul>
Sharing on Old Business: water quality (Paul), natural	10 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quality: Final version of the water quality document submitted to Daryl and given to the City Manager to pass on to the Council. Paul will continue to follow up.</li> </ul>

gas (Geoff), other		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural gas: Geoff has made many contacts, including with WGL, about responsible options and a community-buy option. Will continue to pursue.</li> <li>• The environmental code enforcer has been hired and is working on the plastic bag ban. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>ACTION: Invite environmental code enforcer to future CoE meeting</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
CoE Membership (Cindy)	5 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If your terms ends in 2017 and you want to be reappointed, get in touch with Cindy or SJ.</li> <li>• Issue: CoE by-laws specify term limits for officers and members, which would mean all those on since the beginning would be ineligible for another appointment after 2017. We will add a discussion of possibly changing the by-laws to next month's agenda. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>ACTION: Add by-laws discussion to May agenda</b></li> <li>○ <b>ACTION: suggest new committee members to Cindy or SJ</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2017 meetings; new business	5 minutes	<p>Mosquito program (Jamie): Neighborhood clean-ups and mosquito traps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ACTION: Article in city newsletter, listservs to recruit neighborhood coordinators?</b></li> <li>• <b>ACTION: Jamie to work on plan</b></li> </ul>
Future Action Items, Adjourn		

**Next Meeting: May 1**

**ACTION ITEMS from April meeting**

Gina invite urban forest manager to next meeting

Fred invite sustainability coordinator from Baltimore to address CoE or Green Team meeting

Cindy set up work session to review regional climate and energy report and identify opportunities for Takoma Park

Gina to send some updates on energy challenge

Sustainable MD

- Gina will send Googledocs template for update sign-up
- Cindy (and others ) will look for Word file of last version
- Updates completed by May 1

Gina invite environmental code enforcer to future CoE meeting

All CoE members

- Add by-laws discussion to May agenda
- Everyone to suggest new committee members to Cindy or SJ
- Confirm if renewing (9 folks are up for renewal)

Mosquito program

- Article in city newsletter, listserves to recruit neighborhood coordinators for mosquito program
- Jamie to work on plan for mosquito program