

## **Sustainable Maryland Committee Meeting Minutes July 29, 2024**

### **Attendance**

Chiara Atoyebi

Dorothy Estrada

Melissa Klein

Janet Owens

Raquel Pichardo

Jeremy Schwartz

Emanuel Wagner

Joy Togo

Cindy Dyballa, Council Member, Ward 2

### **Guests:**

Seth Grimes

Katherine Katzin

The Committee met during the last week in July to accommodate members going on August vacations.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm.

The Committee adopted the June 3, 2024 minutes.

### **Discussion**

- (1) The Sustainable Maryland Submission: The Department of Public Works submitted the Takoma Park Sustainable Maryland document on June 27, 2024 and received feedback that included 51 comments -which must be addressed by August 10, 2024 - from the reviewers in late July. The Committee reviewed a summary of those comments and deliberated on the next steps for action. The urgency of the matter required the Committee to devote a substantial amount of meeting time reviewing the submission and comments received.
  - a. The application lacks a Green Team Action Plan that must be incorporated in the re-submission.
  - b. The application must include eight Sustainable Maryland designated critical actions and it currently contains only six critical actions.
  - c. With the incorporation of these missing elements, the application is likely to be awarded enough points to receive a Silver rating.

- (2) The Takoma Park City Budget Process: The timeline of the budget process is being moved earlier. The change in timeline will require the Committee to make its annual update to the City Council by the end of the calendar year. The Committee made its last presentation to the City Council in February 2024.
- (3) Food Waste and Zero Waste: The Committee held a follow-up discussion in July with the City Council on its proposal to launch an education campaign on curbing food waste, increasing food waste composting and reducing food waste presence in landfills. In support of the Committee's effort to tackle this issue, Seth Grimes (former Takoma Park Council Member) made a presentation about his 2020 proposal<sup>1</sup> to incorporate a zero waste initiative in Takoma Park. Concentrating on equity, the proposal acknowledges the gap in access to food waste composting between those households covered by the Department of Public Works trash pickup and entities (Multi-unit buildings >12 units and commercial establishments) that fall outside of these services. The proposal addressed the need for education and agreements with private haulers to pick up food waste separately from trash destined for landfill. The current city code contains a place holder for future amendments on recycling.
- (4) Status of funding application: (i) Takoma Park will receive funding to install chargers at two sites and (ii) Takoma Park has received funding for solar panels to be installed on the roof of the renovated library
- (5) Upcoming Events
  - a. Takoma Park Sustainability Walking Tour, October 10, 2024, 4-6pm: DPW will conduct the tour to highlight its sustainability projects. The tour is being organized primarily for members of other Sustainable Maryland organizations but our own committee members and the public are welcomed to join. A social event at the Girl and the Vine will follow at 6pm.
  - b. Earth Day, April 2025: The event requires several months of planning and Dory will not be able to participate because she will be on maternity leave. The Committee must decide whether it will take over the planning so that the event can be scheduled during Earth Month, or whether it should be moved to May.
  - c. Proposed City Council presentation, December 11, 2024

The Committee adjourned at 8:55pm.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OAXHWM0MkLwayGSqNE8VdTeH43s\\_dCMvQEzfVRcL2Bw/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OAXHWM0MkLwayGSqNE8VdTeH43s_dCMvQEzfVRcL2Bw/edit)