

Rockville Environment Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, February 10, 2009
At the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue

Attendance

Commissioners: Faith Klareich, Kris Dighe, Seth Adams, David Davis, Christine Davidson-McCord, Beri Kravitz, and Tolu Odunlami

Guests: Mark Charles, City of Rockville; Stephen Huang, Resident

Meeting Commencement

The meeting was convened at 7:30 in the Diamondback Terrapin Conference Room at City Hall.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 13, 2009 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved (motion by Dighe, second by Davis).

Environmental Management Report

PIRG Support

Mark Charles discussed a recent letter of support the City provided to Maryland PIRG for its positions concerning certain funding principals that Congress should use when considering future transportation projects.

Stormwater Staff Recruitment

Mark discussed the status of several new stormwater positions that the City is in the process of filling.

Previous Environmental Award Recipients

Mark reported that the web site now included a brief description of previous environmental excellence award recipients and that the webpage will be maintained in the future.

Rainscapes

Mark reported that two rainbarrel workshops were scheduled for March and April and that the rebate program would also begin soon.

Old Business

Rockville Science Day

There was considerable discussion about the time of give-a-way items the Commission may want and questions about whether the City also planned to have a booth at Science Day. There was a question about the proximity of the City booth to the Commission

booth and the likelihood that a rainbarrel demonstration could be put together in time for the April 26 event. **Nate Wall is working on this model.** Mark also briefly discussed the Commission's available budget (\$1000) to be used for give-a-ways, demonstration materials and equipment, or both. The Commission will develop a proposal for a tabletop exhibit and submit to Environmental Management and the Communications Team. Faith and Mark encouraged the group to pursue donations and discounts first in order to make the budget stretch as far as possible.

There was a brief discussion of the desirability to participate in a booth at Hometown Holidays (over Memorial Day weekend) too. Further discussion will be undertaken at the next Outreach Committee meeting later this month.

Watershed Committee Report

Kris reported on the volunteer monitoring program. The program will be called the Rockville *Save our Streams* Program. There will be two training sessions in March and the monitoring will occur in **April (19th or 26th)** at a location on Watts Branch. Two additional training sessions will be scheduled for June. Promotion for the program needs to be placed on the web, Rockville Reports, the Gazette, and in the schools.

Kris has circulated a program procedures manual to Commissioners and asked for comments to be sent to **Heather Gewandter** (by email or hand delivery) no later than Wednesday, **February 18, 2009.**

The next Committee meeting is **February 19, 2009 at 7 pm (Third Thursday of each month at 30 Courthouse Square).**

High Performance Building Committee

Seth reported on the Committee's discussions re a proposed new City Public Works building(s) to be located at the Gude Maintenance Yard. The Commission has been asked to identify appropriate green features that could be designed into these buildings. Mark then briefed the Commission on the latest proposed location and function of the new and renovated space at the yard. Comments should be sent directly to Nate Wall by **Wednesday, February 18, 2009.** The next meeting of the Committee is **February 24, 2009 at 7 pm (Fourth Tuesday of the month at City Hall).**

Outreach Committee

David Davis is serving as Committee chair.

An Environmental Excellence Award will be presented by the Mayor and Council to New Mark Commons for their outstanding tree program on Monday, February 23, 2009. All Commissioners are invited to attend.

Mark asked Commissioners if they were interested in serving as a judge for an Earth Day photo and short video contest.

The next meeting of the Committee is **February 25, 2009 at 7 pm (Fourth Wednesday of the month at City Hall).**

Anti-Graffiti Ordinance

Kris is planning on meeting with the chair of the Recreation Committee on February 26, 2009. He would like Environmental Management to confirm that he is on their agenda.

New Business

Meeting Cancellation Procedure

In the future, we will make a decision to cancel Commission or Committee meetings by 3 pm and email the effected Commissioners as well as post on the web and any special call-in lines. Please provide Environmental Management at least 48 hours advance notice for rescheduled meetings.

Teleconference Capability

The Commission asked Mark to check on their ability to conduct Commission and Committee meetings by conference call, including taking action in between scheduled meetings. Mark will report back on the matter.

Executive Session

The Commission voted unanimously to go into executive session to consider candidates to fill an existing Commission vacancy (motion by Odunlami, second by Davis). The Commission unanimously recommends that Dominique Lorang-Leins be forwarded to the Mayor for consideration for this appointment.

Adjournment

The Commission meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 pm.

Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at 7:30 pm** in the **Diamondback Terrapin Conference Room** at the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue in Rockville.

Post-Meeting Action Items:

- The Commission will develop a proposal for a tabletop exhibit and submit to Environmental Management and the Communications Team
- The Outreach & Education Committee will solicit donations and discounts on products to be given away at upcoming City festivals
- The Watershed Committee circulated a draft program procedures manual to the rest of the Commissioners and asked for comments to be sent to Heather Gewandter (by email or hand delivery) no later than Wednesday, February 18, 2009

- The Commissioners have been asked to identify appropriate green features that could be designed into a rebuilt Gude Maintenance Yard. Comments should be sent directly to Nate Wall by Wednesday, February 18, 2009
- Commissioners are invited to attend the presentation of an *Environmental Excellence Award* to New Mark Commons for their outstanding tree program by the Mayor and Council at their Monday, February 23, 2009 meeting
- Kris Dighe is attending an upcoming meeting of the Recreation Committee re the need for a City graffiti ordinance. He would like Environmental Management to confirm that he is on their agenda.
- Mark Charles to determine whether the Commission and its Committees may conduct meetings and work on projects using conference calls and emails in between Commission and Committee meetings
- The Commission is recommending that Dominique Lorang-Leins be nominated to fill an existing term vacancy on the Commission