

# **Rockville Environment Commission**

## **Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, July 20, 2010**

### **At the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue**

#### **Attendance**

**Commissioners:** Seth Adams, Steve Cardon, Julie Carr, David Davis, Kris Dighe, Beri Kravitz, Tolu Odunlami, and Donna Vincent Roa

**Absent:** Christine Davidson-McCord

**Guest:** Mark Charles, City of Rockville Environmental Management

Carl Henn – Rockville Citizen

David Zbarsky – Prospective Student Commissioner

#### **Meeting Commencement**

The meeting convened at 7:32 pm by Chair Dighe

#### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the May 11, 2010 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved by acclimation with one change. The draft incorrectly noted that the date for the Multi-City Commission meeting was October 3 when the actual date is October **13**. There was no Commission meeting in June due to a tour of the City water plant. Thus there are no June minutes.

#### **Climate Change/Peak Oil Program Proposal**

Carl Henn made a proposal for the Commission to consider sponsoring a community event on a Saturday in September (from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm) that would focus on Rockville's energy future, climate change, Gulf of Mexico oil spill crisis and peak oil. Carl proposed several speakers (including himself) and answered questions from Commissioners. The proposal was tabled to allow the concept to be more fully developed and discussed in detail.

#### **Interview with Potential Commissioners David Zbarsky (Student)**

Commissioners met and asked questions of David Zbarsky who has applied to be the student representative on the Commission. No action was taken since there is another applicant that will come before the Commission in August.

#### **Commission 2010 Accomplishments**

Each year, every Rockville Board and Commission must report on its accomplishments of the past year and its goals for the coming year. Mark Charles led a discussion about the best way to finalize the 2010 report of the Commission's accomplishments and to reach consensus on the 2011 goals. Commissioners were to review the draft document and submit any additional comments by Aug 3, 2010.

**Graffiti Ordinance**

The Commission has had a long-standing interest in legislation that will address concerns over graffiti. The only current remedy is to declare the graffiti a public nuisance. The Commission prepared a white paper on the subject in February 2009 and shared it with the Parks Board. No action has been taken since that time. Kris Dighe led a discussion of this background and circulated the white paper. He advocated that the Commission seek to have the Mayor and Council adopt a graffiti ordinance that imposes significant penalties for illegal graffiti (as opposed to art or voluntary graffiti on private property). As follow up to the discussion, Kris will discuss the issue with Tom Howley (Code Enforcement Manager), Police Chief Treschuk, and review other community ordinances to get ideas for possible statutory language.

**Green Business Recognition**

Kris Dighe led a discussion of the desirability of recognizing Rockville green businesses. It was noted that Montgomery County already has a similar program. The Rockville program might offer certifications if businesses achieved a certain level of “greenness” (for example in energy efficiency or recycling). The City could provide stickers that would have specific dates (e.g., 3 years) on them to encourage businesses to continue to improve (and thus, maintain their certification over time). Commissioners wanted to design the program so the business/applicant would perform most of the work via their application. There was also discussion about partnering with the Rockville Chamber of Commerce and REDI. Donna Roa offered to design the certification sticker and logo. David Davis offered to approach the Chamber. The matter was referred to the Sustainable Design and Energy Committee to further develop the certification criteria.

**Commissioner Recruitment**

There are two vacancies on the Commission. One is for a regular commissioner and another is for a student (high school, college, graduate) student. Ads will be placed in *Rockville Reports*, the City website, on Facebook, and at the Shady Grove Shared University campus. It was also suggested that we post notices at the senior center, and ask the neighborhood advisors to help recruit. Commissioners should be on the lookout for potential candidates and ask that interested persons complete the Level of Interest form on the website and submit to the City Clerk’s Office, Environmental Management (or both).

**Committee Reports**

*Watershed Protection Committee*

- In lieu of a regular meeting, Committee members attended a public meeting to discuss the Cabin John Watershed Assessment.
- Several committee members also attended a rainbarrel workshop on May 16, 2010.

**Environment Commission Minutes**  
**July 20, 2010**  
**Page 3.**

*Sustainable Development and Energy Committee*

- The Committee met and discussed implementation issues associated with the green building ordinance (Chapter 5 of the City Code).
- The group is working on guidance for construction techniques

*Community Outreach and Education Committee*

- The Committee met and debriefed on the Earth Day and Science Day events.
- The Committee also worked on comments to the Commission’s Accomplishments and Goals annual report.

**Environmental Management Report**

Mark Charles reported on the following actions and upcoming events:

- **Heather Gewandter** is returning from her maternity leave on August 2, 2010.
- **Audra Lew** has resigned to take a full time position with the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB).
- **Recycling Report** – In fiscal year 2010 we distributed recycling and refuse carts to 13,876 households and fully implemented the single-stream program by December 2009 (half way through the fiscal year). Our end of year totals show that the tonnage for recyclables, scrap metal and compostable yard waste all increased significantly.

<u>Waste Category</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
<b>Recyclables (tons)</b>	<b>5,381</b>	<b>5,067</b>
<b>Scrap Metal (tons)</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Electronics Requests</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>209</b>
<b>Yard Waste (tons)</b>	<b>3,320</b>	<b>2,196</b>
<b>Total Recycling Percent</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>Revenue (\$ over costs)</b>	<b>\$12,632</b>	<b>(\$3,296)</b>

- **Water Resources Element** – The Planning Commissioner has endorsed the Draft Water Resources Element in June. The City received 38 comments from 5 entities. The revised draft document will be introduced to the Mayor and Council on or about August 2, 2010. A public comment period will run through September with a public hearing before the Mayor and Council scheduled for *September 13*. Adoption is anticipated in November 2010.
- **Sewer Use Ordinance (City Code Chapter 24)** – The City is starting an initiative to amend the current sewer use ordinance to improve its effectiveness as keeping incompatible pollutants out of the sewers.

**Environment Commission Minutes**  
**July 20, 2010**  
**Page 4.**

- **Green Purchasing (City Code Chapter 17)** – The City is also starting an initiative to amend the City procurement code to address green vendors, products and services.
- **Multi-City Meeting** – is scheduled for the Rockville Mayor and Council Chambers on the evening of October 13, 2010. Commissioners may want to put together a draft agenda and circulate it to the other community commissions.

**No August Recess**

In the past, often due to an anticipated lack of quorum, the Commission has canceled its August meeting. However, after a brief discussion, the Commission decided to meet in August. Therefore, the next meeting will be August 10, 2010.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm by unanimous acclimation.

**Next Commission Meeting**

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 10, 2010 at 7:30 pm at Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, 20850.**

**Follow Up/Action Items:**

- Commissioners should actively recruit potential candidates, including a student representative, to serve on the Commission and its committees. Mark Charles should schedule remaining Commission applicants for short discussions at the August 10 meeting.
- Commissioners should review and comment on the *Revised Draft Accomplishments and Goals Report* no later than August 3, 2010.
- Commissioners should review and comment on the *Revised Draft Water Resources Element* no later than the end of September 2010.
- Kris Dighe should approach the Code Enforcement office and the Police with a copy of the graffiti ordinance recommendations.
- Sustainable Design and Energy Committee should consider the desirability of an public energy-themed forum and provide the Commission with a recommendation on if and how to proceed.
- David Davis should approach the Chamber re Rockville Green Business Certifications. Donna Roa will design a potential sticker and logo for the program.