

Draft
Rockville Environment Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday, March 1, 2018

Black-Eyed Susan Room, City Hall,
111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland

Attendance

Commissioners Present: Chair John Becker, Sy Garte, Clark Reed, Lea Rosenbohm, Monica Saavoss and Fedon Vayanis.

Commissioners Absent: Alicia Hosmer, Larissa Johnson and Steve Sprague

Council Liaison: Mark Pierzchala

City Staff: Erica Shingara

Guests: Stephanie Riddick, Amanda Aparicio, Steve Cardon, Steve Chesterton and Angelica Valderrama

Meeting Commencement

The meeting convened at 7:00 pm by Chair Becker.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Reed moved and Commissioner Garte seconded a motion to approve the March 1, 2018 agenda. The motion passed (6-0).

Community Forum

Guest introductions.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Vayanis moved and Commissioner Reed seconded a motion to approve the February 1, 2018 meeting minutes. The motion passed (6-0).

Committee Reports:

- **Watershed:** Steve Cardon reported on the February 13 and March 1 meetings and upcoming events. He noted that the committee rescheduled their monthly meeting to be held prior to the Commission's monthly meeting.
 - The Maryvale Stream cleanup will be held on April 14 from 10 a.m. to noon. Amanda Aparicio will help prepare the site and Steve Cardon will pick up supplies from EMD on April 13. He encouraged all Commissioners to volunteer at the cleanup.
 - On April 12th, Peerless Rockville will be hosting a speaker on the "The Three B's: Bee, Beneficial's and Blooms". Speaker Marie Rojas provides Integrated Pest Management services for homeowners, nursery growers and property managers for over 17 years. Chair Becker encouraged Commissioners to attend the session at the Glenview Mansion.
 - The Committee also provided comments on Pervious Pavement and Upper Watts Branch story map and ordered a rain barrel for Hometown Holidays. Steve Chesterton provided an overview of a proposal for a Brewshed Initiative to engage with new independent breweries on watershed outreach and stewardship. The committee also discussed walking stream segment CJ11 by Preserve Parkway with Councilmember Pierzchala on March 24 at 1 p.m. The committee will not meet in April.

- **Composting and Recycling Committees:** Commissioner Rosenbohm shared the committee’s request to expand and refocus its purview on the coordination and implementation of Rockville’s Climate Action Plan. She distributed a proposal to transform into the Climate Action Committee (CAC) to better coordinate with other boards and commissions and government entities on CAP elements. The committee would work on CAP items that fall outside of other REC committee purviews (i.e., recycling, waste reduction (particularly food), promotion of alternative transportation, etc.). The CAC will start to meet the third Tuesday of the month. Commissioners indicated general support for this proposal. She also notes that the committee approved a food waste flier for food service establishments.
- **Energy Committee:** Commissioner Reed reported the committee attended the Ethics Commission meeting on February 21. They requested an advisory opinion on a solar crowdfunding proposal. The Ethics Commission discussed the request and the definition and distinction of a gift and a donation. The Ethics Commission requested the City Attorney research more information from the State Ethics Commission for further guidance. The Energy Committee researched State information and shared a State memo on the gift law. The topic will be placed on the Ethics Commission’s March agenda.
- **Sustainability:** Commissioner Saavoss reported the committee met with the C&RC to discuss coordination opportunities. They have not officially decided on a committee structure yet.

Environmental Excellence Award

The Commission reviewed the nomination for Melissa Jordan for Outstanding Environmental Education Award for her work teaching preschoolers about the wonders of our natural world and the importance of life-long environmental stewardship. Commissioner Reed moved and Commissioner Rosenbohm seconded the motion to recommend Mrs. Jordan receive the award. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Action Item:** Staff will contact the award recipient to confirm attendance at the awards presentation at the March 19th Mayor and Council meeting. Staff will also email scripts to Commission volunteers for the March 19 awards and proclamation.

Sustainable Maryland Certified (SMC)

Staff distributed a draft SMC action plan and discussed the need for volunteers to complete write ups and documentation for innovative actions.

- **Action Item:** The following commissioners volunteered or were nominated to research SMC actions and draft write-ups. Volunteers should bring any questions to the April meeting so that write-ups can be finalized in May and the Commission can approve the SMC applications in June.

Lead	SMC Action Summary
Clark Reed	Community Engagement Programs, such as diversity town hall meetings, City Academy, Business Academy and other events held by the Community Engagement Division.
	Backyard Hens
	Solar Co-op
	Building Energy Benchmarking
	Electric vehicle and charging station
Larissa Johnson	Residential energy efficiency
Alicia Hosmer	Community Wildlife Habitat

Lea Rosenbohm	Bike Friendly Program
Monica Saavoss	Croydon Creek Nature Center education and outreach programs
Watersheds	Update current watershed activities to include storm drain art program, H2O Summit, and Polystyrene Ban.

Chair Report

Chair Becker provided updates:

- Maryland Open Meetings Act training: Commissioners Garte, Johnson, Sprague, Saavoss and Becker completed training. Other Commissioners are reminded to take the online training at: https://www.igsr.umd.edu/VLC/OMA/class_oma_intro1.php
- Commissioner Rosenbohm's term is the next to expire on September 1, 2018.
- Reminder to committees to submit budget requests.
- Hometown Holidays booth organization:
 - **Action Item:** The Commission will need to submit a registration form by April: <http://rockvillehometownholidays.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/2018-Community-Partner-Registration-Form.pdf>
 - **Action Item:** Committees should begin planning outreach.
- Maryland Clean Jobs Act: The Commission discussed proposed legislation in the Maryland House and Senate supporting this initiative. Committee hearings are scheduled on March 5 and 6. Staff previously emailed Commissioners links to the 27-page bills for review. No comments or questions were shared to date.
 - **Action Item:** Staff will review the fiscal and policy note and follow up with the Chief of Environmental Management on written testimony.
- Reminder to provide any roster updates to staff.

Environment Management Division (EMD) Update

Staff reported on upcoming dates and invited Commissioners to attend:

- Env. Excellence Awards Presentation and Earth Month Proclamation (March 19): All are encouraged to attend the Mayor and Council meeting at 7 p.m. Commissioner Vyanis volunteered to introduce the award. Chair Becker volunteered to accept the proclamation.
- Maryvale Watershed Cleanup (April 14)
- Hometown Holidays (May 26)
- Pepco Microgrid in Rockville Town Center – The Mayor and Council approved a letter of support to the Maryland Public Service Commission. Staff will share presentation materials.
- The new National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) permit is anticipated at the end of March.

Chair Election

Commissioner Saavoss moved and Commissioner Garte seconded a motion to table discussion on the chair election to the next meeting. The motion passed (6-0).

Adjourn

The Commission adjourned by acclamation at 8:55 p.m.

Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is tentatively scheduled on **Thursday, April 5, 2018 at 7:00 pm.**