

**Fredericksburg Clean and Green Commission  
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 7:00 p.m.

Virtually via Go-To-Meeting pursuant to and in compliance with City Council Ord. 20-05

**Commissioners Attending:** Robert Courtnage (Chair), Kerry Devine (City Council) Carolyn Helfrich (Arborist), Christi Carver, Damian Cobey, Sarah Hurst, Amanda Stebbins, George Solley, Kimberly Bastress, Holly Chichester

**Ex-officio Members Attending:** Mike Ward (Parks and Rec), Diane Jones (R-Board), Tyler Gelles (Public Works) Shelby Bourquein, Intern from UMW

**Minutes from February 2021 meeting approved.**

**Officer Elections (Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary)**

New officers for the Clean and Green Commission were elected:

- Chair: Sarah Hurst
- Vice Chair: Amanda Stebbins
- Secretary: Kimberly Bastress

**Sustainability Award for 2021 Launch - Sarah Hurst**

The Sustainability Award criteria, FAQ, and contracts were circulated and reviewed. The Commission decided to update the wording for the contract from “no single use containers” to “no non-recyclable single use containers” to accommodate take-out foods. Further, the Commission decided upon biannual check-ins with awarded businesses.

Sarah Hurst will be meeting with a marketing person who will develop a web site to help advertise.

Robert Courtnage will draft a letter to the FLS to publicize the awards. Christi Carver will contact Main Street. The launch is set for March 17<sup>th</sup>. Shelby Bouquein suggested we coordinate with the state’s ECO Level sustainability certification. Amanda Stebbins suggested we develop a way to track progress.

**Priorities for 2020 - George Solley**

George Solley introduced a spreadsheet to review the Clean and Green Commission’s priorities for 2020 and discussed updating the Commission’s priorities for 2021.

As background, Robert Courtnage said priorities were initially set by the Commission and a consortium of environmental groups for 2020.

The Commission decided to begin work on setting goals for 2022 in November of this year.

### **CSX Rail Cars**

Kerry Devine provided background on the city council's position on railcars being stored on tracks by Railroad Avenue in the Mayfield neighborhood. The cars pose a potential hazard to the neighborhood and to the city and surrounding counties. She noted the city manager and council are in communication with CSX and are searching for answers and for the removal of the cars. They have been told it is a federal issue. Mr. Wittman's office, the Federal Railroad Administration, Virginia Senators and VRE have been contacted. The city council passed a resolution to have the cars removed. A fire marshal is checking on the number of cars and any potential hazardous leaks daily.

Christi Carver suggested we add equal environmental protection and benefits to our priorities. Robert Courtnage asked Kerry Devine how we might best assist in efforts to resolve the problem. Ms. Devine said support of city council and writing letters to Mr. Wittman might help.

- Subcommittee Updates

- Clean Committee – *Damian Cobey*

- Installation of the 15 new cigarette butlers donated from Keep Virginia Beautiful has been completed. Ms. Bourquein reports they are being used.
- School recycling: Mr. Cobey, M.C. Morris, Diane Jones, and Kimberly Bastress will be meeting with City Schools staff next Wednesday to discuss equipment, training and supplies needed for the school's recycling program.
- Plans for 2021 clean up: Ms. Bourquein may be coordinating with a Keep Virginia Beautiful cleanup effort. FOR may also be involved.
- Diane Jones provided an update on keeping roadways clean and said working with probationers has been working well.

- Green Committee – *Holly Chichester*

- Tree planting updates: One hundred replacement trees will be planted this spring, along with 32 new trees at the stadium. The Tree Steward class is ongoing.

- Sustainability Committee – *Robert Courtnage*

- Robert Courtnage thanked Ms. Devine and Mayor Greenlaw for publicizing the city's efforts to reduce energy use and invest in sustainable energy.
- The city put out an RFP for energy performance contractors.
- The commission will encourage the schools to pursue roof top solar with a training component for James Monroe High School and Germanna Community College students.

The meeting was adjourned on 8:03 p.m.