

CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG CLEAN & GREEN COMMISSION

Minutes

Monday, December 7, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.

Present: Commissioners: Paula Chow, Damian Cobey, Robert Courtnage, Michelle Crow-Dolby, Kerry Devine, Carolyn Helfrich, Kyle Snyder, George Solley, Ex-Officio Members: Diane Jones, David King, Erik Nelson, Nancy Segarra, Mike Ward. Public Visitors: Steve Gaske, Anne Little

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

The minutes from 11-2-15 were approved without corrections.

Clean Committee Update

- Paid UMW students to assemble and distribute cigarette butt buckets.
- Bought more buckets, sand, kitty litter scoops. Going back to all people who got a bucket last year to see how things are going.
- Anne, Michelle, Bryan, and Joni Wilson (UMW) went on Town Talk radio show Nov. 2 to talk about Tree Fred, Butt Campaign, and new litter ordinance.
- 3 letters to the editor submitted to Free Lance-Star
- Partnered with UMW on fall butt campaign - they put out yard signs, put window clings on all 70 UMW maintenance vehicles, and maintained an info table on campus.
- Hung 2 banners (Old Mill Park and Maury Playground) during week of campaign.
- Yard signs and window clings distributed during week of campaign.
- Received permission from UMW Foundation to place yard signs at Eagle Village during run of campaign
- Received permission to post an ad on Eagle Village electronic sign during run of campaign
- Partnered with Friend of the Rappahannock to organize successful butt and litter clean up at City Dock and Old Mill Park

Sustainability Committee Update

Robert Courtnage noted the committee is continuing to discuss the initiative to divert green waste from the landfill and mentioned the concern about "flow control," which will be voted on by City Council in February. Diane Jones clarified that the municipal solid waste now under "flow control" (i.e., requirement that the material must go to the Stafford County Landfill) would not affect the green waste diversion initiative as green waste is not specifically covered. Robert Courtnage suggested that the Committee tour the Stafford County Landfill. Diane Jones offered to arrange the tour. Robert also brought up residential energy efficiency as another initiative for the Committee to take on considering the opportunities present.

Plastic Bag Use at Farmers Market

Gail Price manager of Hurkamp Park farmers market spoke regarding the reduction/ elimination of the use of plastic bags at the market. She noted that most vendors sell produce and as such their first move is to grab a plastic bag: this avoids theft, acknowledges the customer, helps ensure the sale. She noted that the Commission needs to factor in the customer service issue when addressing the use of plastic bags. Also noted vendors are at times putting plastic bags inside of reusable bags when reusable bags used. She mentioned the communication issue with the non-English speaking vendors. A joint farmer's market meeting will occur Feb 23rd for

King George, Spotsylvania, and City's farmer's market representatives at the King George library.

Green Committee Update: See Attachment

Washington Avenue Tree Planting Petition Discussion

Dave King, Assistant Director of Public Works, discussed the Washington Ave. tree plantings petition presented to the City. He noted there were approximately 50 petitioners requesting that the tree plantings at Washington Ave. stop and that the planted trees be removed. There will be a public meeting in January to present the history of the tree plantings, take public comments, assemble concerns, and reconvene a design team to address the tree plantings. Steve Gaske, one of the petitioners present at the meeting, stated his concern with the tree plantings and noted he believes that the tree issue is one of historic preservation— claiming that Washington Ave. was once developed for a clear sight-line. However, Dave King mentioned that the 1950s planting design plan had more trees than the current design plan and that the design team used the 1950s design as the basis of the current plan.

Recycling Discussion

Nancy Segarra mentioned that new recycling bins have been printed with minimal change. She noted that people often ignore what is written on the bin and suggest a handout to help educate the public on what the City is recycling now – noting the list has changed overtime. George Solley noted that the list changes too often and expressed the unlikelihood of citizens checking the Fredericksburg website for this information. Robert Courtnage asked Diane Jones whether the fall in prices for the sale of recycled materials was more a problem than contamination for the recycling program. She responded that she is not hearing the vendor complaining about contamination. Kerry Devine stated that education at the bin is too late and feels education via a refrigeration magnet would be helpful. Nancy Segarra mentioned the option that inserts with recycling info be included in the water bill mailings. The cost for 8200 inserts is \$503. Noted in the discussion was the need to develop a marketing plan for the recycling program that has layers for effectiveness. This method can then be duplicated. Paula Chow stated that we need to tap into the church community.

New Commissioner

Robert Courtnage noted that Shane Riordan will be joining the Commission, effective immediately, and noted his environmental qualifications to help him serve as a good Commissioner.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 4th @ 6:30 P.M.