



MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 7, 2016

6:30 p.m.

City Hall, Room 214

Members Present: Commissioners- Paula Chow, Damian Cobey, Michelle Crow-Dolby, Robert Courtnage, Carolyn Helfrich (Arborist), George Solley, Kerry Devine (City Council). **Ex-officio Members-** Mike Ward (Parks and Rec), Nancy Segarra (Public Works), Eric Nelson (Planning.) **Green Committee:** Anne Little. **Sustainability Committee:** John Broughton.

Call to order @ 6:30 p.m.

The minutes for the October 2016 were approved with one correction from Michelle Crow-Dolby.

Public comments were submitted from Mr. Steve Gaske, Washington Ave resident who was concerned about the size of the mulch circles around trees.

Discussion:

The Membership component of the Green Committee: Robert Courtnage proposed that all committees under the Commission be open to any resident of Fredericksburg who wished to add their contribution to fulfilling the membership of that committee. George Solley remarked that we should encourage more residents to become involved. There was a general consensus of the Commission that this should be the current policy and all members concurred on this.

The Solar Equipment Tax Exemption: The initiative is moving forward with assistance from the City Attorney and the Planning Department Staff. There is the tentative plan for a discussion by Council at their work session in December and then taken to City Council in January.

Solar for Habitat for Humanity Homes: Robert Courtnage had meeting with the Executive Director of the Fredericksburg Habitat for Humanity Organization. There is strong interest from Habitat to put solar on the homes they build as part of their building projects. Robert will continue to pursue this connection.

Recycling Changes Citywide: Nancy Segarra passed out two documents regarding the changes in the recycling program. These documents can also be found on the City's website. Also on the city website there is a lot of information regarding what is recyclable in the city and what residents can do to keep the recycle loads uncontaminated. George Solley posed the question "How else can we get this information out to the public?" Suggestions included, 1. Partnering with the R Board and use litter grant money to do a messaging campaign. 2. Use Fred Alert text w a link (Nancy will follow up on this). 3. Partner with FOR and other non profits to get the word



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out. 4. If there is a video available, post it on the City's website and give to radio stations and post on the City's TV channel. 5. More signage at Bellman Road (Nancy countered that the R Board controls Bellman road and we would need to work through them). 6. Put the information on the front page of the City's website (Nancy will work on this). 7. Share on the personal Facebook pages of the Commissioners. 8. Send info through City Schools to parents through their newsletter. 9. Tabling at the Farmer's Market and other events. There was also discussion regarding plastic bags and how to get the word out to take them to grocery stores.

Committee Updates:

Clean Committee: Paula Chow reporting for the Committee. The members of the Clean Committee met with community resource officers to discuss enforcement of the ordinance. Together with the resource officers, Michelle and Damian did a cigarette butt pickup downtown with 6 officers on 11/3. On 10/29 the Clean committee had a large group from Woodbridge (Youth Ministry) help with a downtown clean-up.

There was a discussion that there is still the need for enforcement of the litter ordinance. The butt buckets are being very effective in cutting down the cigarette butt litter.

Green Committee: Anne Little reporting for the Committee. Fall planting continues. The Living Landscape project at Hugh Mercer School will be installed on November 12th, and the Fall Hill restoration project will be installed on November 19th. Anne Little will be stepping down as Chair of the green committee at the end of this year.

Sustainability Committee: Robert Courtnage reporting for the Committee. Sustainability would like to reengage with the City School recycling program. A suggestion was made to find a school champion at each school that could help drive this program forward.

The meeting was adjourned @ 7:30 p.m.