

## CEC Meeting Minutes – June 3, 2021

### Attendees:

Dan Clohossey            Sally Kelly  
Sheila Blum             Katrina Anthony  
Dian Seidel             Joy White  
Stuart Sessions

### Minutes

- Did general introductions since this was Joy White's first official meeting as liaison to Town Council; Lydia Graham is stepping down as co-chair due to other time commitments; Rodica Ursu has moved out of Town and has left the Committee; "call for members" message went out from Town and members are encouraged to recommend other residents who would be able to join the CEC
- Minute approved from previous meeting
- **3R's+C** – Compost Tip of the Month has been published in June's Forecast
- **Lee Dennison Garden** – Sally is finalizing list of plant names for plant signage in LDG. The question that came up last month (\$750,000 budget) was related to the ongoing work in Zimmerman Park where the County has discovered significant utility work that needs to be done as part of the renovation of ZP. Sheila & Sally have engaged with Tolbert on installing a Pollinator Patch maybe in the Rosemary triangle area next CCES, possibly including bench(es) as well as pollinator-friendly plants.
- **Trash & Treasures** – regular T&T is slated to restart in the Fall and Todd is following up with a vendor who might be able to provide some form of bulk household hazardous waste pickup either in conjunction with T&T or on a separate schedule.
- Joy is going to see if initial circulation to the TC can happen more informally via email so the overall schedule could be moved up by a month. Stuart said that 16 of 19 independent jurisdictions in the County have opted-into the County Pesticide law, including Gaithersburg, the largest independent County community, in 2022. Discussed importance of education on organic alternatives and how eliminating harmful pesticides can help with the household hazardous waste issue. By opting-into County law, it applies only to lawn area so people could still apply on pavement, sidewalks, gardens, unless the Town adds additional requirements.
- **Quiet Landscaping**
  - Signs have been posted in public spaces to highlight blower changes and subsidy program
  - Questions have arisen about extending gas-powered ban to mowers (eventually) and how to address the mis-match in hours between mowers (eg 8am) and blowers (10am).
  - Further communication efforts will be undertaken including a Fall event with blower manufacturers are in the works.
- **Canopy Tree**
  - Working Group is working on 2 memos (ordinance change to add net amount of trees to the ordinance list & tree census) for a work session with TC at July Council meeting (delayed due to other TC priorities). Dian has meeting on June 17 with US Forest

Service rep to talk about other communities who've done tree census-type projects – Dian got input from USFS that a full tree census as we're proposing is unusual. Discussed importance of being clear on how data collected will be used to influence/set policy.

- "Tree City" signage will be placed in 5-6 locations around Town in the next month
- **Green Fair/Website** – Anna Wolf and Katrina have given website updates to Emily, who will implement; Katrina completed draft of Zoom webinar instruction manual. Katrina took the action to find out status of website updates.
- **Forecast Newsletter Schedule** – Chris Files completed Composting tip that was published in the June Forecast. Dan will do Home Energy Saving tip for July (summer energy focus).
- **Events Schedule** – No events currently scheduled but next up is hopefully a stream monitoring event.

#### **Other Discussion Topics:**

1. Stuart raised issue of Pandemic Relief funds that Town is entitled to and discussions taking place on how to use them. "infrastructure" such as stormwater improvements is a valid use and the Land Use Committee is also looking at how to potentially use funds for Zimmerman Park improvements. There was a strong consensus from the attendees that the Town consider doing pilot or example projects that would benefit not just the Town but other communities, i.e. keep the focus outward since there are questions about how equitable it is for TOCC to receive pandemic relief funds. Pilot projects could include things like water capture or diversion infrastructure (for example, water capture basins or curb bumpout diversion methods).
2. In-person meetings: Dan took the action to find out from the Town Office what the plan is to return to in-person meetings, probably combined forever(?) with virtual Zoom attendance for those who can't attend in person.