



## **MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, October 3, 2016

6:30 p.m.

City Hall, Room 214

**Commissioners Present:** Paula Chow, Damian Cobey, Robert Courtnage, George Solley, Kerry Devine **Ex-officio Members Present:** None. **Members of the Public and Subcommittee Members:** Anne Little, Janice Olsen, John Broughton

Call to order @ 6:32 p.m.

- Approval of minutes from 9/12/16
  
- **Public Comments – Open**
  - Ms. Janice Olson, City of Fredericksburg resident, addressed issues regarding the current City tree planting program. She commented that there appears to be a delay in getting meeting minutes available to the public in a timely manner. Robert Courtnage informed Ms. Olson that the meeting minutes are sent to city staff the following month after being voted on and approved by the Clean and Green Commission and then are posted on the Commission website. He will reach out to the City staff to better understand where the delay may be occurring.
  - Ms. Olson referenced the May Clean & Green Commission meeting minutes regarding fall tree planting plans, and questioned why there was no specific homeowner information and requested that advance notice be provided to homeowners who will be getting a tree planted in front of their homes. Anne Little informed Ms. Olson that every resident receives a letter 30-60 day in advance with a very high percentage of homeowners responding positively to the planting. Dave King also informs the public in advance via city news and/or website. Ms. Olson then provided Robert Courtnage with a City tree canopy study prepared by Kevin Brown for review by the Clean and Green Commission.
  
- **Green Committee Membership**
  - Robert Courtnage brought up the potential establishment of formalized Green Committee members with slots available for those from specific groups or with specific expertise.
  - Anne Little spoke with the City Attorney in an advisory capacity; understand that this is not a formal 'commission', but provides a representational mix of subject matter experts. The committee members typically meet quarterly and broken out in working groups with specific focus areas.



## CLEAN & GREEN COMMISSION

- Per current list of committee members, the group would like to see someone from City Schools to serve on the Green Committee. Anne Little will reach out to schools to identify potential candidate.
  
- **Solar Exemption Update:**
  - Sustainability Committee sent memo dated August 9 to City Council.
    - Suggested the tax exemption and credit for solar equipment have a duration of 5 years.
    - Listed the municipalities that already provide tax incentives.
  - Robert met with City Manager August 29. The meeting generated very positive response and expects support from City Council. Robert will continue to work with Kerry Devine to prepare draft resolution to put before Council in November.
  
- **Committee Updates:**
  - Clean Committee
    - Cigarette butt buckets are being distributed to downtown businesses that have requested them.
    - Fall Cleanup Campaign is October 29–November 6.
      - Committee would like assistance from Commissioners to find hosts for yard signs.
      - Radio show (Ted Schubel) is being planned for October, prior to the start of the campaign. Police department may also participate in radio discussion to address ordinance.
      - Business owners are being very supportive of initiative.
      - Paula will reach out to the Chamber for additional outreach to businesses and employees.
      - Working with water department for a utility bill insert.
      - Eight new doggie stations have been added around town.
  - Green Committee
    - Oktoberfest event was held over the weekend. VA Green and Capital Ale House organized have recycling available at the event. VA Green is interested in establishing a Fredericksburg Green Volunteer Group. More details to come.
  - Sustainability Committee
    - Goal is to get dialogue between City Schools and Stafford County Schools, to see what City Schools can adopt.
    - Commission members have spoken with several members of the Fredericksburg School Board, and would like to do a presentation for them soon.
    - Paula mentioned Conrad Heller (Teacher at Colonial Forge) and John Gordon (City Facilities) would add value to bring into discussion.



## **CLEAN & GREEN COMMISSION**

- **Other Business:**
  - Diane Jones was not present, but group inquired on the status of new recycling program that is expected to be in place soon. What are the changes in the list of acceptable items (1-7s)? How can the C&G Commission assist in helping to increase awareness of what goes into the recycling bin? How to educate the schools?
  - Outreach to UMW Ecology Club, local Boy/Girl Scout Troops, High School Volunteers

Adjourned @ 7:42 p.m.