



## CLEAN & GREEN COMMISSION

### **Monthly Meeting Minutes Monday, December 2, 2019 City Hall, Conference Room 6:30PM**

**Commissioners in Attendance:** Robert Courtnage (Chair), Michelle Dolby (Vice-Chair), Kerry Devine (City Council), Carolyn Helfrich (Arborist), Christi Carver, Damian Cobey, Sarah Hurst, George Solley

**Ex-Officio Members:** Mike Ward (Parks and Rec), Diane Jones (R-Board), Diane Beyer (Public Works), James Newman (Planning)

\* **Call to order at 6:30 p.m.**

\* **Approval of Minutes** of November meeting motioned by Kerry Devine and seconded by Sarah Hurst.

\* **Public Comments:** Sean Imanian asked: Why is the City slow paced on replacing lighting with LEDs? Diane Beyer responded that the primary reasons are budgetary: Some fixtures will not accept LEDs; also waiting for functioning tubes/ bulbs to expire.

\* **Top C&G Initiatives for 2020:** Robert Courtnage discussed items to put forward to the City:

- Renewable/solar energy (Thurman Brisben Center, baseball stadium, schools) and energy efficiency (electric vehicles, etc.). Anne Little proposed another Solarize campaign in summer 2020.
- Composting and glass recycling (as a combined concept/effort). Can we give restaurants another option?
- Tree planting.
- Butts/litter and reduction of waste. Alexanna Hengy suggested schools could replace plastic utensils with metalware. Sean Imanian recommended education for the public on these issues.

\* **Fossil-Free Renewable Energy Resolution Status:** Robert said the resolution would be voted on at the December 10<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

\* **Committee Updates**

**Clean Committee:** Damian Cobey reported that the R-Board has found a contractor that would like to do a pilot program on residential composting.

The Committee's interns are currently writing a spotlight on clean efforts at Phosphene, a downtown business. They are going to set up a meeting with Mason Dixon Café to interview them for a spotlight. Shelby organized a cigarette butts cleanup downtown where about 20 volunteers collected about 6 pounds of butts. Heather is keeping up with emptying the butlers downtown.

Damian reported that, after the cigarette butt cleanup on November 16<sup>th</sup>, a representative from Jay's Sports Lounge asked for one of our Butts are Litter Too signs and inquired about how he could help. This made us think of dispatching the interns to reach out to more restaurants. Perhaps we could persuade restaurants to install signage reminding their workers to properly dispose of cigarette butt litter. Could we convince businesses to buy receptacles? The City could install and interns could empty them.

Anne Little suggested having interns check (on Saturday and Sunday mornings) on merchants that have café permits. If there is a cigarette butt litter mess, take pictures and report to Marne Sherman. They are required to clean up within 1 hour of closing—and they can't just sweep into the street.

On the schools recycling initiative, Damian reported that he had been in touch with teachers at LUES and JMHS. He and M.C. Morris will meet with teachers at JM in December.

**Green Committee:** Speaking for the committee, Anne Little explained that the Sunken Road site, which had lost much of its greenery during sewer line work this summer, had been replanted and marked with signage as a bird sanctuary.

She also said the Committee had been given 6,000 trees by Transurban. They will conduct a tree giveaway in the spring, with a new focus on getting residents to plant on private property as City land is almost planted out. The Committee is also trying to force more planting with new construction in the City.

**Sustainability Committee:** Robert Courtnage reported that a resolution was approved by the R-Board on November 20 to start composting in a dedicated area at the Stafford County landfill. The leaf collection rate will be reduced from \$41 per ton to \$26 per ton, effective January 1, 2020.

Robert also said the Committee is pursuing rooftop solar installations at City Schools and other City buildings. He gave an update on the baseball stadium sustainability initiative and said that it may expand to the Expo Center, where there is lots of capacity. Regarding the Thurman Brisben Center solar project, he reported that the installation will now take place in January; the Center will begin PR and announcement of the event shortly.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30.

Next meeting January 13, 2020.