



**Clean and Green Commission  
Draft Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Monday, July 13, 2020  
6:30 p.m.**

**Held via GoToMeeting in compliance with City Council Ord. 20-05**

**Commissioners in Attendance:** Robert Courtnage (Chair), Christi Carver, Damian Cobey, Sarah Hurst, George Solley, Amanda Stebbins, Carolyn Helfrich, Michelle Crow-Dolby, Kerry Devine.

**Ex-Officio Members:** Mike Ward (Parks and Rec), Diane Jones (R-Board), Tyler Gelles (Planning) Holly Chichester (Green Committee Chair)

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

\* **Approval of Minutes** of June meeting motioned by Sarah Hurst and seconded by Kerry Devine. All in favor.

\* **FY21 Budget:** The budget for the Commission for FY21 will be at the same level as FY20. Last year most of the funds were used to pay interns. Discussion will be forth going with Parks and Recreation Dept. and this Commission. The discussion will focus on task assignments and how to best utilize these intern positions.

\* **CLEAR:** The Commission has been working with the Climate, Environment and Resiliency (CLEAR) Group. Environmental priority areas were submitted to Council on July 6, 2020. These were identified through several environmental groups active in the City. Chairman Courtnage said he will forward the current documents regarding to the group. City Council representative Kerry Devine offered to bring the work to the Council's off site October gathering. Some of the priority areas include energy efficiency, solar energy projects, conservation of water, food security.

\* **Sustainability Award:** Because of the COVID19 pandemic, this program has had to forego a kickoff. There was a discussion of potential modifications. Some restaurants were showing sustainability efforts. Examples were restaurants / businesses using reuse or recyclable containers, asking if one needs plastic silverware or condiments. New ideas to move forward will be brought to the next meeting.

**Committee Updates**

**\*Clean Committee**

Mr. Cobey reported the Commission's participation in the Love Scrub; a sponsored effort to help the City spruce up downtown. The City has had to furlough staff and other resources due to diminishing revenue in this COVID19 pandemic. The first event was held 3 weeks ago. This past weekend a second event occurred at Hurkamp Park in the City.

The R-Board is applying for a competitive \$4,000 grant with the State of Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. The money will be used for an event to recruit and sustain roadside community cleaning groups. The Commission would represent and participate in the City of Fredericksburg's segment should the grant be awarded. The R-Board also applied with the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a grant to enhance composting and food waste reduction and recovery in the area. The Clean and Green Commission and the Fredericksburg Area Food Co-Op have agreed to be in partnership with the 2-year project should the grant be awarded.

**\*Sustainability Committee**

Mr. Courtnage reported that the Commission is working with the Local Energy Alliance Program (**LEAP**) to go forward with another Solarize program. They desire to explore City & School system managed buildings. The components to train and promote work force development would remain a priority. It was noted that the installation of solar energy at the Thurman Brisben Center two months ago has netted 100% solar / zero-grid energy use! The installation of the Fredericksburg National's new ball park solar parking lot lights has also been completed. This Committee will be meeting next Monday. All are encouraged to attend.

**\*Green Committee**

Ms. Chichester reported that Tree Fredericksburg planted 37 trees at the new baseball stadium, 24 in Idlewild subdivision, (Idlewild provided funds,) and 74 trees around the area and campus of James Monroe high school. They partnered with Bartlett Tree Service and Friends of the Rappahannock, (FOR) for a giveaway of 1,000 trees to residents. Downtown flowerpots were also replanted.

Adjourn @ 7:28 p.m.