



**Clean and Green Commission
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 14th 2020
6:30 p.m.**

Commissioners Attending: Robert Courtnage (Chair), Michelle Crow-Dolby (Vice-Chair), Kerry Devine (City Council) Christi Carver, Damian Cobey, Sarah Hurst, George Solley, Amanda Stebbins

Ex-Officio Members Attending : Mike Ward (Parks and Rec), M.C. Morris (R-Board), Ray Regan (Public Works)

Green Committee Member Attending: Holly Chichester

* **Call to order at 6:33 p.m.**

* Approval of Minutes of July meeting (motioned by) Kerry Devine and (seconded by) Holly Chichester. All in favor.

***Environmental priorities-** The priorities were submitted to Council for consideration during their planned October retreat. Kerry informed the group that at this time there is no date set for the retreat, but Council is looking at a December timeframe which will give more time for preparation. Kerry was also asked to bring up at the Council retreat that the city should add an environmental section to the city's website.

***C&G Budget for FY2021-** No change in budget from FY 2020. City staff is emptying the cigarette butt buckets and replacing the mutt mitts where needed. City staff is also billing to the C&G budget line item/ account. No re-hiring of interns as considering staffing concerns. C&G is allotted \$6,500 in FY 2021. Need to determine how much will be left in the budget and whether leftover funds could be used to purchase green spotlight logo stickers for storefronts. Mike and M.C. are going to discuss having some of the community service individuals possibly assisting in cigarette butt receptacle emptying and mutt mitt refills to save money and extra jobs for individuals in the community service program.

***Fredericksburg Solarize Update-** Two successful webinars held with 95+ participants and a third scheduled for 9/22/2020. 40+ participants have signed up for the program thus far and promise for more. Campaign runs until 10/2/2020. Great advertisement and social media post help from Friends of the Rappahannock, Fossil Free Fredericksburg and the Fredericksburg Nationals.

***Sustainability award-** Sarah will be discussing how to move forward with the award in the next subcommittee meeting.

* **Clean Committee update:** A cigarette butt clean-up campaign is being planned in Nov. The R-Board grant was not awarded but looking into other avenues for assistance. October 10th 9 am – 3 pm Bellman road is hosting a hazard waste collection. MC Morris will send out flyers to push out



on social media.

* **Green Committee update:** Working with FredNats on tree and shrub selection plan at the stadium; planting of the trees and shrubs at the baseball stadium will be accomplished by a contractor. Due to continuing Covid-19 restrictions it is not possible to do the planting with volunteers; planting by the contractor is planned to occur over a three-week period during October/November.

Tree Fredericksburg is planning a of 3,000 tree giveaway in the fall—planning on a two-day event at James Monroe parking lot (Nov 7th & 14th). An alternative site for this event is City Shop. *Tree Fredericksburg* has been reinstalling *Arboguards* on some street trees due to weed whacker damage and have also remulched some trees on Franklin St and other areas. Fredericksburg has gained four new Tree Stewards. They are planning some group pruning sessions through Winter to provide additional experience for the new Tree Stewards. Adam Lynch from the *Friends of the Rappahannock* gave a “shout out” to Public Works. Public Works is restricting new stormwater draining into streets. FOR is now working with effected residents to establish onsite stormwater management. Diane Beyer, Director of Public Works is planning stormwater education to better inform residents on mitigation of stormwater runoff. For FY21, \$25K additional requested to purchase/install pervious pave materials to manage mature trees where sidewalks are compromised. Also hope to start systematically replacing impervious walkways throughout City for stormwater infiltration. There was a discussion about reasoning behind no planting of replacement trees in fall 2020. VA Department of Forestry has a current Area Forester position open. The VDOF on-line seedling store opens on October 1st. The website is www.BuyVaTrees.com. Cossey Park is in need of maintenance to remove vines overgrowing shrubs, etc. We will check with Parks/Guy Mussey to see if he can get some of his people to catch up on the maintenance. Installation of trees at Riverfront Park is being delayed. Tentative plan to start in Fall 2021.

* **Sustainability Committee update:** Thurman Brisben center solar project has saved anywhere from \$2,000-3,000 a month in electricity bills. A very successful zoom call between Orange County Schools, Secure Futures and Fredericksburg City Schools--lots of interest and great questions. Working on next steps to keep the momentum moving. The Fredericksburg Nationals are working with a Maryland company, Standard Solar, to assess rooftop solar on the stadium and the Convention Center. There are hopes to go off grid and be the first minor league team to be 100% solar. Robert participated in two radio shows regarding solar energy on WFVA that was very informative and engaged the audience.

M.C. added that she thought it would be a good idea to do the Cigarette butt litter clean up on one of the two Saturday's that the tree giveaway is to help one encourage the other to participate.



*The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.