

SustainableEHC Meeting Minutes Feb. 23, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of SustainableEHC was held in the Mayor's Office at City Hall starting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23. Present were Nanette LoBiondo Galloway, Hazel Mueller, Jane Mattson, Mary Ann Rogers, Dick Colby, Jenn Williams, Rick Dovey, John Rupp, Jr., Lisa Jiampetti, Alysha Garcia and Dawn Schrieber.

Rogers motioned to accept minutes of Jan. 26 meeting, with one addition – Mueller suggested getting Parks & Playgrounds Committee involved in tree planting project; Mueller seconded; all approved.

Galloway announced to programs offered by ACUA – the new ObLITTERators program will allow people to report litter using the SeeClickFix app. Volunteers will organize cleanups in problem areas. SustainableEHC was also invited to participate in the Adopt-a-Road program, which provides a \$250 stipend for cleaning up a county road within the city limits. Volunteers are needed for this program.

Galloway asked for volunteers to report green team activities to the City Council at their meetings on the second and fourth Thursday of the month. Galloway is unable to attend because of work commitments. Members agreed to share the duties on a rotating basis.

Galloway also reported that some bronze certification points will expire before the next grant cycle. Officials at Sustainable Jersey suggested working on action items that have a longer shelf life.

The group reviewed plans submitted from three contractors to plant 20 trees in Lincoln Park honoring veterans killed in action. One contractor did not submit an estimate for installation. Two plans were reviewed and the group unanimously selected the plan submitted by Homestead Nursery at a cost of \$12,887.

Rupp reported that the American Legion will be accepting tree donations. Donors can buy a tree for \$275, although the actual cost per tree is much greater. Several community groups will be providing donations as well. Galloway suggested applying for the Community Stewardship Incentive Program Grant, which could provide as much as \$30,000 to help us achieve our tree cover goal (replace 109 trees lost in derecho 2012) over a three year period. The grant application is due April 12. Galloway will meet with CFO Jodi Kahn on the grant requirements and obtaining City Council support for the grant application.

Mattson reviewed the spring Sustainable Landscaping Workshop Series, which she set up with professional speakers. Workshops will be held as follows: Sustainable Landscapes: Grey to Green, 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 22 at City Hall (date of our next

regular meeting); Rain Barrel Making Workshop, 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 5 at the EHC Community School; Urban Forestry and Shade Tree Maintenance, 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, location TBD (City Council members should attend this workshop); and Selecting and Planting Native NJ Trees, 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 17 at the American Legion post home. Galloway thanked Mattson for all her hard work arranging guest speakers. Flyers and press releases will be sent out and posted on Facebook and the SustainableEHC website. Mattson stressed it would be important to “fill the room.”

The group held a brief discussion about the Green Business Recognition Program, which member Lou Madonia agreed to set up. Madonia was unable to attend the meeting because his father passed away. Local business owners will be surveyed on their green business practices. Those who receive a certain number of points will be awarded plaques they can display in their businesses. Efforts will be made to achieve Tier 2 approval (15 points) by having business owners adopt criteria on the NJ Sustainable Business Registry Program. Galloway will share her email list of local businesses with Madonia.

Other action items for silver certification suggested were an anti-idling ordinance targeting specific areas where “turn off your engine” signage could be posted, such as in front of schools and businesses on Philadelphia Avenue and the WHP. City Council will be asked to pass this ordinance.

Galloway talked about the Making Farmers Markets Accessible action item, which would require finding farmers who accept WIC, SNAP and EBT and senior produce vouchers for payment. One such farmer is Butterhof’s. Additional signage at the train station and arranging transport for seniors living at the Rittenberg complex would achieve 5 points toward silver certification. Galloway also offered the farmers market manager position, which provides a \$50 stipend per market day. A free seminar title The Whys and Hows of Farmers Markets will be held 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 2 in West Windsor. Members, especially those interested in serving as market manager, were encouraged to attend.

The Green Challenges & Community Program action item would be interactive with the community and could be accomplished weekly during the summer farmers market. Residents would be asked to pledge to make small changes, such as switching out light bulbs, or plastic containers for glass. Those who pledge could register to win light bulbs or glass containers. Giveaways will need to be purchased. Williams suggested taking their picture and posting it on Facebook. Follow-up is needed to see if pledges were completed.

Lead based paint education is another action item the group could pursue. In addition to providing educational materials to parents at the Community School’s upcoming Health Fair, the Building Department could conduct testing when doing CO inspections and annual apartment rental inspections. Testing kits are \$10 and readily available at Home Depot or online. Galloway will check with the city to see if this is achievable.

Galloway also suggested the city participate in the Municipal Communication Strategy action item, which would require city employees to open communication channels with residents through the city's website, TV station, robo call system, etc. Much of this is already being done, but there could be improvements. The Sustainable Jersey Atlantic & Cape May County Hub will be hosting a seminar and networking session on this topic, 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 16 at Gourmet Italian in Galloway. Members and city officials were encouraged to attend.

Williams, who owns her own environmental engineering company, offered to assist the city in its efforts to identify and clean up Brownfields sites. Galloway suggested she contact Kahn to determine the city's needs.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

The next meeting will be a workshop meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 22.