

SustainableEHC

Meeting Minutes

Jan. 24, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of SustainableEHC was held in at City Hall starting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24. Present were Nanette LoBiondo Galloway, Mary Ann Rogers, Dick Colby, Jenn Williams, Ingrid Nieves-Clark, Anthony Monaco, Katherine Johnston, Mair Costa, Tracey Mulherin and Mark Demitroff.

Williams motioned to accept minutes of Nov. 22, 2016 meeting; Rogers seconded; all approved.

Galloway said there were no changes in budget account since last month, but anti-idling signs are being order so the \$1,715 balance will be reduced by several hundred dollars before the next meeting.

Galloway asked the group to approve developing a new website at a cost of \$197.64 for web design and hosting for three years. Rogers motioned to approve the expenditure; Mulherin seconded; all approved.

The group discussed the 2017 farmers market and agreed to hold it at Butterhof's Shady Brook Farms with the theme "Down on the Farm." Dates will be July 14 to Sept. 15 and rates will remain the same as last year - \$175 for the season. Williams and Galloway will work on getting vendors and meet with Farmer Al to iron out logistics. Galloway will get clearance from the Mullica green team, if there is one. Galloway suggested working with Stockton University's agro-ecology program to support local farming and food security. Galloway will contact the university to ascertain its willingness to help.

The group discussed challenges presented by Demitroff in getting the Tree Planting and Maintenance Plan completed. Demitroff said he needs to know what trees will be planted along with caliper dimensions, locations, etc. He stated he has put in too much time on preliminary work and that the \$2,100 allowance in the tree grant is not enough to cover all the work he will have to do to get the plan completed by the quickly approaching deadline. Galloway said there were plans drawn up by local landscapers for all locations and provided to Demitroff, but tree species are not all native NJ trees, or Pinelands trees, and may not comply with the grant's 30-20-10 rule. He provided three maps, narrowing down the number of species, etc. for each location. The group should decide the tree species and let him know what trees they want from a list of trees he suggested. There are also issues with locations, watering and the deadline to complete the plan. Galloway will contact the grant administrator to ask for an extension and discuss the various issues raised.

Galloway informed the members that anti-idling brochures and signage are being ordered, the police department agreed to help with an educational campaign before issuing any tickets. Pledge forms were sent to the city schools, which are some of the targeted areas for idling reduction. Waiting to hear back from the schools if they will sign the pledge before contacting the bus company. Rogers, who is a member of the EHC Board of Education, said the issue would be discussed at the board's next meeting on Feb. 8.

Galloway suggested applying for two Sustainable Jersey small grants which are due at the end of February. The first will be a \$2,000 grant to support SustainableEHC activities, but we can apply for more than one grant. Galloway suggested applying for a \$10,000 grant to purchase refillable water station at the lake, or a \$20,000 grant that can be used toward purchasing recycling bins. Member Rick Dovey of the ACUA provided Galloway with a cost estimate of \$75,269 for recycling carts for all households, which can be paid over five or seven years. City officials would have to approve both ideas before applying and agree to cover additional costs in the city budget, or city can use Clean Communities funding. Galloway will contact the mayor and city council to determine interest.

Galloway asked if the group is interested in participating in Earth Day activities, Sunday, April 23, but there was no firm commitment from volunteers at this time.

Galloway suggested conducting a spring sustainable landscaping series leading up to June, which has been designated Sustainable Landscaping Month by the NJ Legislature, like the one held last year. Will contact the Mullica River Watershed Ambassador to see if she can set up some programs.

Galloway shared a letter of support she wrote on behalf of SustainableEHC for the city's bikeway grant application. Colby asked the route and suggested the Antwerp Avenue rail bed, which is already cut through the woods. She also shared her personal letter to City Council regarding replanting trees ripped out for streetscape projects. It is Galloway's opinion that any grants received for streetscape projects should also include replanting trees.

Galloway introduced Katherine Johnston, our AmeriCorps Vista, who is interested in conducting programs in Egg Harbor City to educate vulnerable populations about disaster planning and preparedness. This is part of two Sustainable Jersey action items that can provide as many as 30 points toward our recertification. Johnston would like to work with the city's Office of Emergency Management on its disaster planning and preparations by promoting Register Ready to the Latino/Hispanic population. Johnston will connect with Nieves-Clark of the Latino Club and Bob Ade, the city's OEM coordinator. Galloway suggested holding a public forum with the emergency management team inviting the Latino community to learn more. She also suggested determining if reverse-911 calls from the city or announcements on Channel 2 can be provided in Spanish for households that request it. This program could be discussed at the upcoming Coalition for a Safe Community forum being held at the EHC Community School, Feb. 13.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be held 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28.