

SustainableEHC Meeting Minutes April 26, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of SustainableEHC was held at City Hall starting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 26. Present were Nanette LoBiondo Galloway, Hazel Mueller, Mary Ann Rogers, Dick Colby, Jenn Williams, Candace Negron, Lou Madonia and Kristy Morgenweck.

Galloway introduced Morgenweck as a new member of SustainableEHC. Morgenweck is a graphic artist who will provide her time and talents to create attractive flyers, banners, etc.

Rogers motioned to accept minutes of Feb 23 meeting, Mueller seconded, all approved.

Galloway presented financial report provided by CFO Jodi Kahn. Kahn closed out the Sustainable Jersey (\$2,000) and AtlantiCare (\$1,000) grants. The Reserve for Community Events – SustainableEHC budget account shows a balance of \$1,332.18. Galloway noted that \$717.43 of that amount represents proceeds from last year's farmers market.

Galloway reported that the Sustainable Landscaping Speaker Series is a great success. Speakers provided valuable information and the sessions were well attended. Final program, Selecting and Planting Native NJ Trees, will be held 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 17 at the American Legion Hall, 527 Philadelphia Ave. (park on street or in rear of building).

Galloway reported that the Community Forestry Program Community Stewardship Incentive Program grant proposal was submitted. If awarded, the tree-planting program will be implemented in three tree-planting phases along with an ongoing tree-planting program for residents who lost trees in the 2012 derecho storm. The city applied for \$30,000 to implement the program over a three-year period. Phase I will be plantings at Spragg School, Key-Rec and pedestrian footbridge. Phase II will be at Lincoln Park, and Phase III plantings will be determined.

Farmers Market Manager Jenn Williams reported that it has been challenging getting farmers for the market. The group will be working to make the farmers market accessible, which would provide 10 points for certification. Ideas include promoting the market at the transit hub, providing county transportation for residents of Rittenberg Manor, and contracting with the county to offer produce for SNAP/EBT users. The county will provide staffing to swipe EBT cards, issue vouchers and pay farmers at the end of the night. Additional funding may be needed to advertise the market to fresh produce deprived families.

Williams reported that the group will also conduct Green Community Challenges program at the market, which will provide 10 points toward certification. Community members will be challenged on a weekly basis to make small changes in their homes that will reduce their carbon footprint, such as eliminating the use of single-use bags,

switching from plastic food containers to glass, switching out incandescent to LED light bulbs, installing low-flow shower heads, and new thermostats, etc.

Signage and new banners are needed to promote the market and the challenge program.

Galloway reported that SustainableEHC will be providing lead based paint educational information at the EHC Community School Wellness Fair being held Thursday, April 28. This is another action item (10 points) for certification. The group will distribute a lead poisoning checklist for parents to determine if their children are at risk. Information from NJ Dept. of Community Affairs and Atlantic County Division of Public Health and information on the city's most recent drinking water quality report will also be presented. The water quality report shows no lead in the city's drinking water.

SustainableEHC will also be offering its first community challenge at the fair, asking parents to sign a pledge to use reusable bags. Reusable bags will be distributed to those who take the pledge and provide us with an email address. We will follow-up in three months asking them to take a brief Survey Monkey online survey to determine how they made out keeping their pledge. The poster board showing how long it takes for plastic to degrade that was made by Creative Team students at CCHS will also be on display. AtlantiCare will provide seeds that we can distribute as well. Jeanne Mohr Williams and Galloway will staff the table. Additional help is needed as the fair gets very busy. Contact Galloway if you want to help out.

Galloway discussed the Anti-idling Education and Enforcement action item, which would provide 10 points toward certification. The City Council could pass a resolution supporting the state's existing anti-idling statute, or adopt an ordinance. Signage would be posted in targeted areas, including Philadelphia Avenue, Harbor Plaza, WaWa, public schools. Police could enforce it by giving warnings at first. Repeat offenders could get tickets. More discussion is needed on this.

Lou Madonia said he will be making a presentation at our next meeting on the Green Business Recognition Program he is working on.

Galloway presented an idea for the Municipal Communication Strategy action item, which would update the EHC Community Resource Director that was developed by the Municipal Alliance many years ago. The little blue book could be updated and printed for distribution to the community, and as a welcome to new homebuyers upon receipt of a CO.

Dick Colby suggested the city look into developing a community solar array at the old landfill off Duerer Street, which could provide electricity at a greatly reduced cost for residents who become members of a non-profit organization set up to share in its benefits.

Galloway reminded members of upcoming events, including Community Cleanup Day, May 7; Zion Youth Service Day, June 5; and Hometown Celebration and Green Fair, July

9. The Arbor Day tree planting will be held on May 9, and a tree will be planted at the Spragg School to honor little Gavin Pabst, who died tragically last year.

The next meeting will be held at City Hall, 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 24.

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