

Kings Contrivance Environmental Committee
Minutes
March 10, 2016 7:30 P.M - 8:10 P.M.
Amherst House

Attendees:

Hillary Bierce
Beverley Meyers
Dawn Linthicum
Gail Holm
Richard Briggs
Nicky Worth

Material/Handouts

- Agenda

Agenda:

1. Introduction and Welcome
 - Introductions and review agenda for this meeting
 - Welcome visitors/solicit members
2. Old Business and Action Item Follow-up
 1. Trash receptacles installed between HHS and VC (Bev Myers); Success!!
 2. Discuss “Walk with Ned” planning in work and how our committee could support and use the event for village environment outreach
 - i. CA has preliminarily targeted September 10th at 10 a. m.! More details to follow
 - ii. Pflugrad input – Use this event to advertise KC highlights; Promote KC environment (see our brainstorm results below): invite a variety of watershed and open space groups to have tables for pre and post walk review by attendees; Ned Tillman books available?
 1. **The group suggested inviting the following outside people/groups**
 - a. **a master gardener to man a table, answer questions, and be a resource for attendees**
 - b. **Jon McCoy**
 - c. **Consult with Sean H. to get more suggestions and direction for outside groups that may be interested in attending, or those who would be good to invite**
 - d. **Richard is willing to reach out to a master gardener he knows that would possibly be interested in being involved**
 - e. **Consider posting advertisements at the following locations**

- i. East Columbia Library—especially for the senior center
 - ii. Robinson Nature Center
 - f. Howard County Conservancy—consider reaching out to this organization
 - g. Dawn to do advertising for this event
 - h. Should consider having Ned’s books available for purchase the day of the walk. How do we coordinate this?
 - 3. Discussion: Need for our Environment Committee to have a web page, Facebook page and google doc distribution list and document exchange; does anyone want to work on this? Should we use, and how could we use, the “NextDoor” app? Should our agenda’s and meeting notes be stored on the Village Web page?
 - i. The Environmental Committee already has a tab on the village website and it was agreed that we should use the resources that we already have before we try to create new ones
 - ii. Dawn and Bev can edit the KCEC page to update it with meeting notes and pictures, upcoming events, watershed info, etc.
 - iii. KC has over 800 likes on its Facebook page—will try to maximize on this resource
 - iv. Dawn already has an email contact list and distributes the CP regularly this way—will try to maximize on this resource
3. New Business
- 1. Prepare for Spring KC Cleanup April 23
 - i. Pflugrad input: can we get some focus on our streams? Can we increase participation by encouraging residents to cleanup in their immediate home area? How could we get KC Townhome/Condo HOA residents to participate? Should we ask Patuxent Watershed Commission to coordinate (per John McCoy they will advertise for us at their expense)?
 - 1. All agreed focus on streams should be incorporated into this clean-up
 - a. Hillary and Al to coordinate and determine a local stream in KC to target in the clean-up
 - i. Notify Robert at CA of any change to usual clean-up map
 - b. Hillary would still like to have the option for people to clean up around village center—it’s a good option for people with young children or for volunteers who have a limited time to participate
 - 2. Cleanup in immediate neighborhood/home has logistical challenges for community cleanups as residents are then responsible for disposing the trash once it’s collected
 - 3. Nicky suggested people cleanup near their own homes while they are out every day; Dawn will put a blurb in the CP reminding people to take a plastic bag with them to collect trash while they are out walking this spring

4. Hillary reached out to HOAs and apartment managers for many years but stopped as it did not appear to affect attendance at clean-ups; Dawn will forward the CP blurb announcing clean-ups directly to her village HOA contacts
5. John McCoy—will ask Al to contact John re: Patuxent Watershed Commission involvement
2. Support for KC Rain Garden Seminar on March 24 at 7:30
 - i. Al plans to attend to help encourage “rain gardens” in our village. Perhaps Rich and Gail could attend to provide a testimonial.
 1. There are already 6 people signed up to attend
3. KC Stream Monitoring (macro invertebrate) – Al will lead a MD DNR and HoCo Watershed Steward Academy team to survey a KC stream on March 19. Anyone is welcome and encouraged to observe - please meet in the parking lot behind the Amherst House at 1:00 p. m. on Saturday March 2016 (Rain date March 20). The results can be shared at a subsequent meeting or at the “Walk with Ned”.
4. Committee Member “Share” (an opportunity for each attendee to share (optional) any environmental activities, events or activity) (10).
 1. Gail attended an invasive species information session recently to learn about the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area; regular meeting is every 4th Tuesday
 - i. Barberry is being sold at local garden centers despite being invasive
 1. Hybrid version may still be invasive; it is uncertain what this species will do once planted
 2. Greenfest is April 16th
5. Next Meeting—May 12th at 7:30 p.m.

Results of 9/24/2015 Attendee Brainstorm (“what topics would you like the committee to address” and “what do you think could be done to maintain and improve the KC Environment”)

1. Promote erosion prevention
2. Promote proper use of fertilizer
3. Advocate best practices to beautify your lawn
4. Help finding environmentally friendly lawn maintenance providers – how to interview – good questions to ask, etc.
5. Study lawn grass alternatives
6. New forms of community notifications
 - a. Is there an app for that?
 - b. Patch
 - c. “did you know” in community newsletters
 - d. Engage block captains
7. CA Walk with Ned
8. Invasive species “weed warrior” program (10/10 and 10/17 HCC)
9. Deer