

Kings Contrivance Environmental Committee
Meeting Notes
September 24, 2015
7:30 P.M - 9:00 P.M.
Amherst House

Attendees:

Alan Pflugrad (co-lead)
Dawn Linthicum (also KC Events & Info. Coordinator)
Hillary Bierce (co-lead)
Nicky Worth
Richard Briggs (left at 8:00)
Garett Tache
Sean Harbaugh (CA Open Space Management Team)
John McCoy (CA Watershed Manager)
Mel Herman
Sarah Herman
Beverley Meyers (KC Village Manager)

Other Residents interested in participating but unable to attend this meeting

Gail Holm
Erika Botzum

Material/Handouts

Agenda with Reference Material

1 Introduction (10)

- Who we are

Attendees are Kings Contrivance Village residents interested in participating in an organizational and informative working meeting to share ideas for environmental actionable projects and outreach programs. Also in attendance were the KC Village Manager, CA Open Space Manager and CA Watershed Manager.

Al will document the notes for this meeting but hopes that others will take turns as well in the future.

The Village provided the meeting space, refreshments and copies of the handout.

- Attendee self-introduction with optional expression of "interests"

Each attendee introduced themselves that included a brief statement expressing their general interest in our village environment and/or sharing other related experience. See the list of attendees above.

- Committee history and legacy

The KC Environment Committee has traditionally focused on village cleanups. Hillary currently leads the committee. She coordinates all volunteers, CA and the village staff. With village staff support, the cleanups are advertised in village newsletters and with signs. Reminder calls or emails are sent to known volunteers. Various groups such as boy scouts, HHS Honor Society, etc. are contacted directly to seek their participation. The village provides all support materials (such as bags, gloves, pickup sticks, etc.). While the village (i.e. Hillary) will recommend areas to clean up, volunteers are encouraged to pick up trash in their own neighborhoods where most convenient or most needed. CA picks up the trash bags along designated areas.

The Kings Contrivance Village Board (KCVB), in conjunction with the existing Environmental Committee lead (Hillary Bierce) and the current KC Representative to the CA Watershed Advisory Committee (Alan Pflugrad) determined to expand the committee's focus to include open space, watershed and related environmental matters.

The existing KC Environment Committee

- Summary of our "action" mission

The mission statement (see handout), approved by the KC Village Board, was discussed.

- Purpose of this meeting

The purpose of the meeting is to establish the general Environment Committee framework/focus and to solicit resident participation.

2 Upcoming village cleanup (October 24) details with discussion of support (15)

- Hillary summarized the upcoming cleanup in some detail (also see Committee History and Legacy above).
- The group brainstormed ways to get more participation as well as ways to prevent trash in the first place.
- Dumpsters are no longer being made available with the cleanup event since the county will now do bulk pickup curbside.
- Beverly will call the Hammond High School principal seeking collaborative support for this cleanup and for future coordination (**Action**).

- Al and Sarah will send a “cleanup” event notice to their specific neighborhood distribution lists (**Action**). Hillary will provide them with the standard notice to be sent out (**Action**).
- Al stated that he sent notice of the cleanup event to those KC HOA board members who had public email addresses (No responses were received back)

3 Overview CA Open Space within KC – Sean Harbaugh (25)

- Location and Boundaries
- Current CA maintenance
- Known challenges and plans
- Suggestions for residents

Sean Harbaugh is CA’s Assistant Manager for Open Space.

Sean provided information regarding KC Open Space including the following:

- KC had more acres of open space than any other village.
- Most of that open space is “natural forest”. Some areas of which contain special Hemlock trees; much of the open space is adjacent to the Middle Patuxent River including great vistas.
- 60 acres are mowed
- 17 miles pathways
- Pathway edges are maintained; some vines in the natural forest will be trimmed
- 15 bridges (which give an idea of the number of streams)
- 24 playgrounds
- Thousands of annuals are planted
- 1 Basketball Court (MacGills)
- KC has a dedicated maintenance team led by Robert, whose responsibilities include planting and plant maintenance, snow removal, responding to resident concerns, encroachment issues, tree removal, etc.
- CA Open Space has a landscape architect and a construction team.
- Capital improvement items include Bridge Replacements and Bio-Retention ponds
- CA inspects the playgrounds and removes graffiti
- CA provide the recycling bins in selected areas
- CA picks up the trash including those used by dog walkers to dispose of their dog waste (which is the proper place)
- Cleanup in the natural areas is performed as needed

Sean stated that the residents could be of most help “by making people aware” to keep our environment and open space “clean”.

4 Attendee Brainstorm "what do you think could be done to maintain and improve the KC Environment“(25)

- Include what topics you like the committee to address

- apply a simple Brainstorm process enabling all to participate

The following suggestions were quickly brainstormed. The list is not exhaustive as time was limited.

As captured on the easel:

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

5 Solicit new member suggestions for committee meeting and event schedule (10)

All present indicated that they wanted to participate on the Environment Committee.

General committee operations as documented in the handout were described.

The following meeting scheduled was discussed and accepted:

Second Thursday every other month at 7:30 at the Amherst House starting in November 2015 (thus November 12, 2015, January 14, 2016 March 10, 2016, May 12, 2016, July 14, 2016, September 15 , 2016 are the next scheduled meeting dates).

Hopefully committee members will use the time between meetings for related action and events.

AI will send out the meeting notes and the next agenda.

AI recommended that the November 12, 2015 meeting include an agenda item that focuses on the CA Watershed Plan (John McCoy) and a KC Neighborhood Pollution Assessment and Stream Monitoring (AI Pflugrad).

AI recommended that each future meeting include a standing agenda item enabling members to share news, events, etc.

Garett volunteered to create a Facebook page for our committee (**Action**). Initially it would be considered a draft with access limited to our membership until we get some review.

Al recommended that each committee member review the River Hill Watershed Committee web page and Facebook page (google River Hill Watershed) as a model for our focus (**Action**)

6 Close (5)

- Native Plant Give-Away

Al summarized some reasons why native plants are important (see handout slide 8). Each attendee received a native plant courtesy of Howard County's Watershed Steward Academy HOA Partnership Program.