

CEC Meeting Minutes – October 7, 2021

Attendees:

Dan Clohossey Stuart Sessions
Joy White Dian Seidel

Minutes

- September meeting minutes were approved
- Dan used a PowerPoint to lead the rest of the meeting discussion
- **FY22 Operating Model, Structure & Process (Recap/Continuation of Sept Mtg discussion)**
 - Operating Model: 5 voting members for official votes (in person or by email)
 - Align work efforts into 3 topical areas for CEC review, discussion and for presentation on website: Greener Gardens, Greener Homes and Greener Transportation
 - Structure: Lead & team members sign up for specific work efforts, e.g. Healthy Lawns, etc.
 - Process: Existing efforts continue then Dan to work offline to pre-identify Lead & team members for specific work effort before CEC votes to prioritize & begin new work; Leads and team members can come from CEC or we find other residents who might be interested in a particular, time-limited effort
 - Next Steps: At November meeting, CEC will take first votes on new work efforts that are ready for prioritization, i.e. ones for which we have a Lead and some team members. There may need to be some “pre-votes” at the November meeting to first decide what work we want to try to prioritize, THEN Dan can work offline to find a Lead & team members (if needed), then we might come back for an official “start work” vote on prioritized items at the December meeting. Since 3 current task teams (Canopy Tree, Quiet Landscaping and Healthy Lawns) will likely be wrapping up their work in early 2022, we need to start to line up the next work efforts.
- **Additional Discussion**
 - In looking at the work ahead, Dan suggested that we create a “Public Gardens” team and consolidate Lee Dennison Garden, Pollinator Patch and any other Public Gardens topics into one team; for example, there might be CEC input requested for Farm Women’s Market, 4-H or Zimmerman Park projects. The Public Gardens team would not take on ownership of FWM, 4H or Zimmerman except as far as providing input – see item below on Town Staff recommendation. CEC will vote on the Public Gardens team idea at the November meeting.
 - Zimmerman Park renovation – discussed how ZP was a Land Use Committee project, not a CEC project, but as noted above, CEC may be solicited for input on aspects of the garden-related components as that project proceeds

- Greener Transportation – had a good discussion about how there are lots of good ideas for GT-related projects in Town but how we don't have resource to work on and they tend to be technical in nature and connected to bigger efforts going on around the world but more specifically in Montgomery County (eg MC charging station rollout program). Joy stated that given the nature of the work, Town Council will be looking to CEC for input on what the Town should do, especially starting in 2022. This led to Joy suggesting (and the rest of us concurring) that we really need a new Town staff person who has the technical expertise and bandwidth to drive such projects. We agreed that Dan would draft a recommendation to Town Council that they hire a new staff member to work on such projects, especially because they take technical expertise, more time and almost all require County coordination/engagement. Green Infrastructure might be another project that this new staff person would lead, given some of the same characteristics: technical, County coordination, big time commitment, possible Town-hired consultant/contractor liaison. Dan will draft such a recommendation for CEC to review and vote on at the November meeting.
- Dian suggested we keep CEC volunteers focused on more Town-specific projects and consider that CEC role is traditionally more advisory vs. execution.
- We talked about County engagement and coordination and how that role could be part of the new staff member's responsibility. That said, CEC could invite a County representative to speak to CEC on the topic of what TOCC can be doing to best support County initiatives and Climate Plan – Dan will work to arrange a County presentation (separate from CEC monthly meeting) for them to tell us how we can best help them.
- Dan will write up the November Forecast Tip on Renewable Electricity