

Town of North Beach
Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 2nd, 2019
7 PM at Town Hall

Attendees: Jane Hagen, Karyn Molines, Guy Stone, Allan Creamer, Veronica Cristo
Lisa Garrett

Agenda and discussion: This meeting was mainly the EC working with the new Eco-tourism director on budgeting and events/activities planning support for the remainder of 2019 and extending into 2020.

Eco-Tourism/Community Conservation Department Budget

- Lisa explained that the budget is due for 2020. Her initial budget of \$3K was questioned as being too low. After looking at other department budgets, she decided to make adjustments that will bring the total closer to \$7K. Budget items will include:
 - Funding for year round events (marketing banners, advertising, signs) as well as for special events for a total of \$1K for 12 events total.
 - Staff training (not to include MML), but she did request training for Cornell Lab of Ornithology for how to be a better nature trainer (\$500).
 - Bayboat eco-tours using a water taxi. \$TBD for snacks etc for the trips. The water taxi itself would be covered by individuals paying a fee directly to the taxi. Roughly 20 people would be on the boat.
 - Interpretive signage, most likely grant-funded. Karyn explained that Southern MD Heritage Areas has up to \$1K grant money but it must be matched by the town so she should request \$1K from the town.
 - Wildlife guides to be put on the rental kayaks, (5 @\$20 each)
 - 6 adult and 6 youth binoculars, \$780
 - Children's Garden at Boys and Girls Club: Pollinator garden and rain gardens, mulch, topsoil, leaf-grow etc, \$1K (but to be adjusted upwards).
 - Flyer printing costs
 - Handheld tablet to support parks-based events (using apps such as iNaturalist). Amount TBD. Karyn said her Dell 2-in-1 that she used was \$2K but it could be her daily use computer as well.
 - Prizes/give-aways – items that meet the sustainability goals of the EC such as reusable collapsing dog bowls, water bottles
 - Karyn suggested funding for water fountains that support filling of water bottles & dog bowls
 - Funding for T-Shirts for a new initiative to recruit Senior Center users into the NB Green Team to increase the momentum and visibility of NB green initiatives.
 - Funding for guest speakers

- The Nature Center setup will generally be funded by grants, but Lisa would like to do a nature nook at Wetlands Overlook Park with a TV showing educational videos, display nature books, etc.
- Lisa needs training on Excel; EC members suggested Keep It Simple Computer Solutions in Prince Frederick (\$400, but can re-take classes as refreshers).
- Lisa will further investigate for a future year koi feeding or duck feeding stations/dispensers, but research will take time.

Eco-Tourism Planned Events & Activities

- Lisa did a quick overview of planned events and programs (not comprehensive).
 - October - Big Sit at Wetlands Park, bird count (30-50 people). This is a national event. Planning a family event that will hopefully include food donated by local restaurants
 - May 11th - World Migratory Bird Day (in NB will be called "Welcome Back Ospreys").
 - End of April – City Nature Challenge (using iNaturalist).
 - Father's Day Fishing Derby in June
 - Earth Day tree planting in April 23rd. The EC will participate. 10AM at Overlook Park. Lisa has picked a location with Donnie, who is doing the bed prep
 - Kayak tours in summer
 - Duck Walks in fall and winter
 - Pollinator Garden at Boys and Girls Club
 - After-school science programs with Brandon at the Boys and Girls Club (1 day/wk)
 - Senior Center Green Team
 - Rock-painting workshop at Chesapeake's Bounty
 - Activities under #NBNature, also on Facebook and Instagram

More Recycling Guidance Needed for NB Residents

- Jane discussed the issue of non-recyclables mistakenly being put into recycling bins. This is largely due to people not understanding exactly which materials are recyclable. She would like to do another article in the NB newsletter with additional guidance for residents.
- Lisa suggested a field trip to the Upper Marlboro recycling facility that the Appeal Landfill feeds. Some of the more common materials that end up in recycling that shouldn't include
 - pizza boxes
 - tissue paper
 - plastic bags
 - sharps
 - plastics without the recyclable symbol & number
- The recycling message is strong, but the details of the message aren't getting through, resulting in contaminants/non-recyclable plastics ending up in the

bins/recycling stream. Jane will provide info for the NB Newsletter for a follow-up article.

Re-usable Plastic Straws

- On the theme of eliminating plastic straw use in NB, Jane talked about reusable straws that her daughter found on Amazon. Lisa said that she has purchased this type to use as giveaways.

Water Fountains Supporting Refillable Bottles/Dog bowls

Veronica suggesting using this type at the visitor's center if they (Pat Haddon and Jack's owner) haven't yet placed the order. Lisa later reported the following: I have heard the water fountain for Jack's memorial has already been ordered but this refillable water fountain station might be useful somewhere in the future of North Beach- perhaps at the education facility.

This is the fountain the EC discussed:



Walton Beach/Living Shoreline Topics

- Jane asked Lisa to find out the status of Walton Beach interpretive and rules signage from Veronica. Lisa was not aware of the project but would look into it. Jeff and others will look for the current, edited version of the rules verbiage. The team discussed what was provided to Veronica in order to determine how to locate the materials again for Lisa.
- Lisa is meeting with Gene of Environmental Concern at the end of April. Gene will provide maps and info in advance of the meeting.

US Fish & Wildlife "Get the Lead Out" Program

- Guy talked about the program, the availability of program materials, and how the EC should make people aware of the program at the NB Fishing Derby and other NB events.

Meeting adjourned