



## Environmental Affairs Committee

Virtual Meeting  
[www.gaithersburgmd.gov/virtual](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/virtual)  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

### AGENDA Regular Session

Tuesday, September 22, 2020, 7:00 PM

The City is currently holding public meetings virtually via the Zoom webinar platform. Details can be found at [www.gaithersburgmd.gov/virtual](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/virtual).

The public is encouraged to listen in but will not be able to verbally participate in discussions. For all agenda items, you may submit comments in writing at any time. All comments should be emailed to [cityhall@gaitthersburgmd.gov](mailto:cityhall@gaitthersburgmd.gov).

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - A. August 11, 2020
3. **DISCUSSION TOPICS**
  - A. New Member Introductions
  - B. DeVol Funeral Home
  - C. Bee City
  - D. Green Events
  - E. Annual Committee Briefing
  - F. Committee Member Updates
  - G. Staff Updates
  - H. Council Updates
4. **ADJOURNMENT**

All items and pertinent materials on this agenda are subject to change.

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## MINUTES Regular Session Tuesday, August 11, 2020, 7:00 PM

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Session of the Environmental Affairs Committee was called to order at 7:00 PM with Chair Doug Wolf presiding.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Doug Wolf	Chair	Present	
Janette Rosenbaum	Vice Chair	Present	
Paul Hlavinka	Member	Late	
Katherine Ryder	Member	Absent	
Alex Stavitsky-Zeineddin	Member	Present	

Staff Present: Sustainability Coordinator Moran, Watershed Restoration Specialist Weyand  
Council Present: Council member Wu  
Attendee: Christine Chin Choy

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### A. Regular Session held July 14, 2020

A motion was made to approve the minutes.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [3 TO 0]</b>
<b>FOR:</b>	Doug Wolf, Janette Rosenbaum, Alex Stavitsky-Zeineddin
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Katherine Ryder
<b>NO VOTE:</b>	Paul Hlavinka

### 3. DISCUSSION TOPICS

#### A. Pesticides

Sustainability Coordinator Moran shared that the Public Record for the pesticide ordinance closed on July 29th. Twelve (12) written comments were received. All in favor of the ordinance. The policy discussion and final action is scheduled for Monday, August 17th.

#### B. Green Events

The contractor that provides services for our shredding event has a socially distant event plan in place. The Acting City Manager approved the event. Committee members suggested the event be hosted in October to make up for the cancelling of Ocktoberfest. Staff will work to determine what weekends are available.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Aug 11, 2020 7:00 PM (Approval of Minutes)

The committee also discussed hosting a virtual screening of the film 2040 in line with October 5th, World Habitat Day. The 2020 theme of World Habitat day is Housing For All: A Better Urban Future.

#### C. Bee City

The Committee discussed becoming an official Bee City. Bee City's advocate and protect local bees, which is not the same as beekeeping. Honey bees and local bees often have to compete for resources and cause transmit diseases to each other.

To become a Bee City, a grassroots organization and local government need to work together to complete the requirements. Committee Vice Chair Rosenbaum, who also serves on the board of the Muddy Branch Alliance will discuss with the Muddy Branch if they would like to partner with the City on the Project.

#### D. New Member Update

Staff read a brief bio provided by Christine Chin Choy, who attended the meeting. If Choy is still interested in the committee, interviews will be conducted to determine appointments.

#### E. Committee Member Updates

Committee Chair Wolf announced that Montgomery County has started accepting alkaline batteries. The County is working on getting a new contractor for textile recycling so they can resume collection of clothing.

Committee member Stavitsky- Zeinedden emphasized that soft plastic film should be brought back to the grocery store. Montgomery County sent out a postcards to all residents as a reminder.

Committee Vice Chair Rosenbaum had a virtual home energy audit done via PEPCO. There was no charge for the audit and the utility is spending out energy saving tools. Sustainability Coordinator Moran indicated she would add this to the Our Favorite Resource Section of the Green In Gaithersburg newsletter.

Committee Member Hlvani asked about the pond monitoring that the City does. Rock Creek park in the county recently had a blue green algae bloom. Watershed Restoration Specialist Weyand will share relevant contract details with the committee via email.

#### F. Staff Updates

Staff present spoke about the addition to the Rainscapes Reward program for soil testing. Testing your soil is an important initial step for transisiton to Organic Lawn Care. Residents must submit an application and receive City approval to be eligible for the rebate. The rebate is up to \$20 per soil test, with a maximum of two rebates per year per property.

#### G. Council Updates

Council member Wu shared updates on the new on-demand bulk pick up program, the transition to LED street lights, and the upcoming vote on the Pesticide Policy.

Council member Wu also asked the EAC to consider how they may want to be involved in some aspects of the review process for future stormwater projects.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the session was adjourned at 8:06 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Moran, Sustainability Coordinator

DRAFT