

City of Summit Environmental Commission Minutes, January 11, 2018

Present: Beth Lovejoy, Marian Glenn, Jeff Hankinson, Donna Patel, Chris Sprague
Green Team and Guests: Susan Haig, Mandana Arvandi
Common Council liaison: Marjorie Fox

Beth Lovejoy called the meeting to order at 8:05 PM.

The November meeting minutes were approved. No meeting was held in December.

Action items in red.

New EC member: Beth Lovejoy

Beth announced that Chris Sprague has been appointed to the EC to replace Marjorie Fox, who has resigned due to her election to Common Council. Chris will be the liaison from the EC to the Recycling Advisory Committee. Marjorie will now be the liaison to the EC from Common Council. There is one open spot on the EC, due to Jeff Wagenbach's resignation from the Planning Board. State law requires that one member of the EC be a representative from the Planning Board. The PB will designate a representative.

Park Line Foundation: Jeff Hankinson

Jeff has recently been named to the Board of the [Summit Park Line Foundation](#). He has toured parts of the current site with Dr. Rob Rubino. Dr. Rubino has cleared many of the hurdles to designating the area as a rails to trails site, and the Foundation has acquired some major partners and begun raising money. The City helped with the paving of the first section of the Park Line between Broad Street and Morris Avenue.

Green Team: Donna Patel

The screening of "An Inconvenient Sequel" at MONDO in December was attended by over 50 people. Following the movie, Marian Glenn and Lauren Gonnella responded to questions and raised awareness about the environmental efforts here in Summit.

On January 10, the Green team hosted a speaker about [The Climate Reality Project](#) at MONDO. The event was attended by approximately 30 people.

The Green Team will host another vegan cooking event on March 9, 11 AM – 1 PM. More info to follow. They are also looking to partner with Ciel Power on an event to host multiple vendors and groups with green products and interests. The Green Team is also working on a survey to post on their social media sites to gauge interest in a variety of subjects, including what people might like to see in the Broad Street redevelopment area, and is preparing for hosting an educational table at the Farmers Market in the spring.

Planning Board and the EC: Beth Lovejoy

The EC has been asked to attend a PB meeting to discuss how the PB and EC can work together. This will be a good opportunity to present the memo being prepared by EC members and friends on several green initiatives raised in the 2016 Master Plan ReVision. Marjorie added that Council will be voting soon on hiring a consultant to update the current City development regulations, who will be tasked in part with examining how the Master Plan objectives can be incorporated into the development regulations.

Community Garden: Marian Glenn

Marian said that the 2018 applications for the Community Garden will be online very soon. They are due back to the YMCA (which runs the Community Garden) by February 16. There are 50 plots at a cost of \$75 per plot for the season, with some plots available at a reduced price for lower income residents.

Christ Church Solar Panels: Marian Glenn

Christ Church is very close to having solar panels installed on the church roof.

Recycling Advisory Committee: Chris Sprague

Tennis ball recycling has been successful at Memorial Field. The current plan is to add the service at the Tatlock courts as well.

The RAC is looking into becoming part of the national [Recycle Coach](#) program. It is a program that residents and municipalities can contact for information on how to recycle various items. The RAC would need to upload information for Summit.

SDI has offered to add a link in its newsletter to the RAC Facebook page.

The Summit Free Market building project is close to beginning the construction phase. EC members recommended that either solar panels be added to the roof, or that the roof be at least solar ready and that the building be oriented in a way that would be good for solar panels to be added in the future.

There was a discussion about recycling plastic bags. Marjorie pointed out that plastic grocery bags should not be recycled because they gum up the recycling machines. Marian also added that all non-recycled garbage from Summit goes to the incinerator in Rahway and the incinerator generates usable energy. It was noted that the large co-mingled recycling bin at the Transfer Station only says “No black plastic bags,” which implies that bags of other colors can be recycled. **Chris Sprague will contact Mike Caputo about changing the signage.**

SeeClickFix: A reminder that residents can report their concerns, like a pothole or missed recycling pickup, online at the “[Report A Concern Page](#)” of the City website. Residents can also download the [SeeClickFix app](#) for their mobile devices.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Beth Lovejoy

2018 EC meeting dates. All meetings take place in the Whitman Room at City Hall except as noted.

2/12 This is a week early because of school break.

3/19

4/16

5/22 This is a Tuesday because no rooms were available on Monday, 5/21.

6/18

No meetings in July and August

9/18 This is a Tuesday because no rooms were available on Monday, 9/17.

10/15

11/12 Large Conference Room and a week early because of Thanksgiving.

12/17 Large Conference Room