



Mount Rainier Green Team Minutes

March 14, 2022 7:00-9:00 PM

1. Introductions

- a. Sarah Lifsey
- b. Christine Burns (Anacostia River Keepers)
- c. Kevin McNeill
- d. Liv Monahan
- e. Councilmember Luke Cheseck
- f. Mimi McKindley-Ward

2. Events

- a. Spring Greening Fair (TBD Spring 2022)
 - i. The Spring Greening Fair is not happening this year; there are no current upcoming events at the Nature Center.
- b. Anacostia Watershed Society Earth Day Clean Up (April 23, 2022)
 - i. The Nature Center will not be a site this year. If they're not a site next year, Joe's could potentially host as a site.
 - ii. Registration opens March 15th and there are other sites in the community (Brentwood) if people are interested in volunteering.
- c. Rain Barrel Buy (TBD Spring 2022)
 - i. Sarah will follow up with the county (Rain Check Rebate).
- d. Native Plant Garden Walk/Event (April/May 2022)
 - i. See below.
- e. Mount Rainier Day (May 14, 2022)
 - i. Sarah will reach out and see what the process is for getting a table, if the team wants to have a table and give out materials.
- f. Bike to Work Day (May 20, 2022)
 - i. Mimi can volunteer to help with the table. We will set up at 6:30am and be open from 7am to 9am.
 - ii. Ron Hopkins (Dept. of Economic Development) might have handouts from the City that we could give out.
 - iii. Stream Team may reusable water bottles if they can be restocked in time—Kevin will follow up.
 - iv. We can also give out more information on what the Bike Co-op does (flier with open information, services, contact information, donation information). Sarah will ask Matt if they have something like this.
 1. Future possible partnerships/events with the Bike Co-op: community ride, tire changing workshop, bike tune up workshop, how to clean your chain or similar skills building.
- g. Growing Green with Pride (May 2022 - Date TBD)
 - i. Possibly hold at the 37th Street park or Food Forest.
- h. Community Clean Up with Green Team, Joe's Stream Team (TBD Spring or Summer 2022)
 - i. The Stream Team is hoping to create a recurring clean-up event as COVID restrictions lift; Stream Team is rotating through PG County towns and doing clean-ups.
 - ii. Tentatively the first could be in June 2022.

- iii. The Stream Team is incorporating an educational component with the litter clean-up, such as learning about specific impacts of litter on the environment. They also want to have a future event at the bandalong site with a focus on litter in the water.
 - i. Native Plant Oktoberfest (October 2022 - Date TBD)
 - i. The artist studio by the railroad tracks was recently sold, to much consternation, but the new owner is looking to create affordable art spaces; he's going to convert space into art studios and subsidize rent with giant solar array and build a future mural park. Current artists will be given priority for spaces.
 - ii. New owner is interested in Dueling Spring development/preservation/clean-up; potential nature walk, potential Oktoberfest.
- 3. Native Plant Network
 - a. Update on Native Plant Network signs
 - i. We approved the sample of the sign but H&W is waiting for the metal stakes. If metal stakes aren't received by early April, we could mount to wooden stakes as an alternative. We're waiting for updates on availability of metal stakes
 - ii. Goal is to have completed signs by April 15th.
 - b. Sierra Club MD spreadsheet
 - i. Sarah updated the Sierra Club MD map. Open questions: is there a way to lock the map against edits and, if so, any way for people to suggest edits?
 - ii. There are a few houses that we need to add: Liv, Dave, Barry, Luke, Mimi.
 - iii. Could we include data from RiverSmart certified homes? It might be similar criteria; Christina will send an email to Councilmember Chesek.
 - c. Three upcoming events
 - i. Handing out the signs (April 23rd or 24th)
 - 1. Sarah to update NPN website with link to the map and easy next steps write-up.
 - ii. Zoom meeting to educate people at the NPN, showing the map, giving next steps (May-June 2022)
 - 1. How to announce the map? How to show it to people? Present it on a Zoom meeting, potentially after the signs are handed out.
 - 2. If certifications are going to be in the fall, the spring event is about education, give-aways, support, next steps (with a calendar).
 - 3. Sarah will postcard-sized handout with resources, where to start, timeline.
 - iii. Live Tour of the Map! (Early Fall)
 - 1. What kind of giveaways?
 - d. Potential collaboration with Nature Center teen program/Stream Team; also opportunities to do native plantings near the bandalong. Christine and Kevin will connect over potential grant opportunities.
- 4. Compost Proposal
 - a. Presented at the February 15th Work Session; next step is that Tim J. will come to Saturday, April 2nd public budget hearing (9am-4pm). Sarah will also attend.
- 5. Municipal Net Zero/Carbon Footprint Resolution
 - a. Sarah gave the update from March 4th meeting and the plan to electrify all or nearly all vehicles by 2035 presented by Public Works, Code Enforcement and Police. Next this will be presented at an upcoming Council meeting for public release.
- 6. Stormwater Updates

- a. Public Works received another \$100k grant to do rain gardens in tree boxes on Arundel Road: 13 rain gardens on Arundel between 25th and 30th Sts and on 29th and 30th Sts. Contractor will install rain gardens.
- 7. Bike Planning Updates
 - a. Bike to Work Day - Friday, May 20, 2022
 - b. Councilmembers will present yearlong plan for community outreach, engagement, etc. at the Work Session to get feedback, costing for potential inclusion in the budget.
- 8. Recycling Outreach
 - a. Potential plastic bag ban/discouragement; engage Stream Team, Nature Center
 - i. We will talk about this more in the April meeting.
 - b. Anacostia River Keepers is working on a plastic bottle bill in DC that would hopefully be of interest to MoCo and PGCo. Policy master students at GW are doing a large-scale case study with the final presentation scheduled for May 10th (potentially a public meeting, report will be shared). They are exploring options such as bottle deposits (for reinvestment in river) and needed infrastructure; producer responsibility laws. They are also interested in brand audits at clean-ups that may be of interest to the Stream Team.
- 9. Parks Updates
 - a. Rogers Park
 - b. Community Garden
 - c. Peace Park / Spring Park
 - d. Dueling Creek
 - e. 31st Street Food Forest
 - i. We held a future stewardship of the Food Forest meeting this past Saturday and discussed potentially making it a subcommittee of the Green Team. A project plan is under development to be presented to the Mayor and Council.
 - f. 37th Street Pocket Park / Mt. Rainier South Park
 - g. Richardson Park
 - i. Getting new play equipment
- 10. Outreach
 - a. The Message upcoming topics
 - i. Reducing plastics/terracycling – Julie
 - ii. Deer and ticks – Julie
 - iii. Daylighting urban rivers – Sarah
 - iv. Gas water heater options – Joseph

Next Meeting: April 11, 2022