



# Gaithersburg

A CHARACTER COUNTS!

CITY OF GAITHERSBURG

**Environmental Affairs Committee**

August 10, 2010

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**Attendees:** Daniel Campos, Karen Rainbolt, Ed Mitchell, Luis Gonzalez, John Hudson, Jeffrey Farrell, Lisa DeLima, Gary Dyson, Greg Ossont, Steve Rainone, Cathy Drzyzgula

**Absences:** James Simpson, Ken Gemmell, Mike Blackmon

The meeting was called to order at: 7PM

**I. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:**

**A. Staff Updates:** The committee discussed the EAC Priority List based upon budgetary cost designations. The emphasis of the committee driven activities was determined to be those that can be facilitated by staff. The pursuit of green business materials was decided to be on hold until the completion of the City facilities audit.

**B. Committee concerns regarding Priority List:** John Hudson raised the issue that the list didn't specifically address nitrogen and phosphorus loads entering the storm drain system. Greg Ossont responded that current needs must focus on the issues directly related to the City of Gaithersburg and their adequate funding.

**C. City concerns regarding Priority List:** Greg Ossont requested correspondence from the EAC regarding priorities in time for the M&CC fall retreat (October) for inclusion in any discussions.

**D. Other Discussion:**

Jeffrey Farrell raised the idea of corporate sponsorships for Green Streets, ball field upgrades, and Winter Lights program.

John Hudson suggested that rain gardens be provided in city parks as a community education venue. Greg Ossont responded that Meredith Strider would be able to create signage.

Luis Gonzalez suggested contacting vendors to advertise on a City Facebook page or cable or local TV channel. Greg Ossont commented that the PIO is investigating limitations and City needs for maintaining a Facebook page.

Greg Ossont commented that the City EECBG webpage is under development and will provide the results of the recent energy audit. GO also noted that ESD BMPs need to be incorporated into an overall watershed plan for the City. This will be required of the City by

the state if the City is to collect fees for future watershed improvements. Some baseline data is currently available for watershed plans but a decision will be made on watershed scales and consultant work scope.

Karen Rainbolt spoke of the need for a climate action plan. She will look at other municipalities for templates and guidance and possible adaptation for the City.

Luiz Gonzalez inquired about City recycling displays for the County Fair and other local forums.

John Hudson expressed the need for air and water sampling at various points in the City and suggested that a grad student from UMD could assist.

**D. New Business:** The committee was informed that a booth for Olde Towne Day has been secured and that volunteers would be needed from Noon -5pm for the event. Members were also to start thinking about activities for Green Week 2011. Ed Mitchell requested sediment control advice for St. Rose of Lima. Luiz Gonzalez offered to pay a visit. The committee was also interested in creating a 5 Minute Walk Map for the Gaithersburg Green Guide.

**II. NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting is scheduled for September 14<sup>th</sup>. Exact time will be determined.

**III. ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm. .

Respectfully submitted by,

Gary L. Dyson