

DRAFT AGENDA
College Park Committee for a Better Environment
Monday, December 6, 2021
7 pm
Location: Online meeting – Zoom (see instructions)

- Amendments to and/or approval of this agenda
- Review and approve October minutes (attached)
- Report on City activities and CBE budget – Janet McCaslin.

Ongoing Business

- Labeling trees on the trolley trail – city website updates and plans for more labels
 - Trolley trail map
 - Labeling stormwater drains – plans for spring painting
 - Report out on Bee City activities, No Mow Month
 - Letter to Mayor and Council re: purchasing land north of Mazza Gallery through Project Open Space.
 - Letter to Mayor and Council re: tree removal by developers and the need to replant within the city
 - Spring events – trolley trail walk, clean up event
 - Tips of the month for January
 - Green Award nominees.-- **Renee Domogauer and Catherine Oberfield (see end of agenda)**
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- Tree and Landscape Board report.

New Business

- Plastic bag ban in College Park: Prince George's Sierra Club Zero Waste Committee and University of Maryland Student Government Association Representatives both reached out to see if College Park could ban plastic bags and make it so single use items at takeout (plastic utensils, sauce packages) would only be available upon request. Efforts to implement a bag tax or ban at the county level have stalled for a decade. If municipalities like College Park ban bags, it will make it more likely for the County to do so.

For discussion:

- Would we like to take this on as a committee?
- If yes, outreach to Council members and city staff

- Education of residents
- Surveying of stores

See attached draft legislation, and take a look at the following resource.

Beyond Plastics report: "The New Coal: Plastics and Climate Change"

[*The New Coal: Plastics and Climate Change*](#) is a comprehensive account of the United States plastics industry's significant, yet rarely acknowledged contributions to the climate crisis. Using coal-fired power plants as a benchmark, the report examines ten stages in the creation, usage, and disposal of plastics: fracking for plastics, transporting and processing fossil fuels, gas crackers, other plastics feedstock manufacturing, polymers and additives production, exports and imports, foamed plastic insulation, "chemical recycling", municipal waste incineration, and plastics in the water. Learn more about the **new report** from Beyond Plastics [HERE](#). There was a **webinar** on the report earlier this month, which you can view [HERE](#).

- Goals for next year – the city staff have asked us to clarify which exact tasks we want to pursue next year. The city manager and/or council members would then approve the tasks. This will be part of our year-end report, where we provide an update of accomplishments and goals for next year. We can finalize at our January meeting.

Suggestions include:

- Continue storm drain painting – based on potential funding and volunteers, we can see how many more storm drains we can paint.
- Label more trees on the trolley trail – dependent on remaining funds and pricing with inflation.
- Creation of a badge contest for No Mow Month
- Reducing plastic waste in College Park
- Re-issue sustainability survey to see if there are changes in answers – or would we want to do this biannually?

Next Meeting: January 24, 2022

Agenda is subject to change

Write of up Renee (nominated by Caroline):

Renee is a resident of the Calvert Hills neighborhood in College Park. For many years she has organized neighbors to plant flowers in the planters along the trolley trail in Calvert Hills. This year, she also helped coordinate planting flowers in the planters along the Old Town section of the trolley trail.

Renee has also worked persistently to reduce trash on the streets of Calvert Hills and Old Town. During the pandemic, she organized neighbors to be responsible for picking up trash along individual streets in the neighborhood. She also successfully advocated for more trash and recycling bins along the trolley trail, and she has collaborated with UMD students to pick up trash in Old Town.

Most recently, Renee organized a refurbishing of the Little Free Library near the College Park daycare.

Write up of Catherine (nominated by Todd):

Catherine Oberfield single handedly runs a food scrap pickup service, Berwyn Compost. She is a farmer by trade and understands the importance of composting.

Pickups are every Monday morning, and it takes Oberfield an hour or two to complete the circuit. After doing the pickup, Oberfield takes what she's collected to Prince George's Organics Composting Facility, in Upper Marlboro, or to ECO City Farms, depending on what she has to drop off.

Oberfield has lived in Berwyn for two years, following her graduation from the University of Maryland, and staying local is important to her.

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From this article in the College Park Here & Now: <https://streetcarsuburbs.news/dedicated-berwyn-resident-starts-composting-service/>