

BERKLEY ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting of January 21, 2021

6:30 PM

VIA REMOTE ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of Agenda - *approved*

Approval of Minutes of November 2020 meeting – *Jessica will submit*

4. Public Comment - *none*

5. Chairperson's Report - Richardson

a. REF Workshop – *Mark will distribute plan when he receives it. Would like the group to work on identifying potential funding sources*

b. MPSC stormwater infrastructure system planning

- *Storm water and transportation infrastructure portions of the master plan – Mark would like the BEAC to provide input on scope, how ambitious should we be with green infrastructure?*
 - *Berkley has poorly drained soil and is a small community, and shouldn't be that ambitious – recommend rain barrels and low cost projects/ideas, avoid creating an artificial wetlands area(s).*
 - *Will discuss this at next month's steering committee – please provide ideas to Mark*
- *Will discuss transportation infrastructure in 2 months – what does street sweeps really mean? No hierarchy of goals/values. Berkley prefers good sidewalks over bike lanes. Make mass transit easier (bus stops, better visuals) throughout the city.*
- *Mark would like us to provide input to this*
 - *Does parking lots fit into this? Numerous parking lots throughout Berkley that are not being used at full capacity, impervious surface of parking lots pose potential storm water run off environmental contamination and fees to the city.*
 - *The City is looking at developing the corridors of the city (12 Mile, Coolidge, 11 Mile)*
 - *OCCRWC looking into green infrastructure ideas for the GWK basin/corridor*
 - *Will the master plan process allow for updates to city ordinances that would require installation of green infrastructure or upgrades to equipment/buildings that are environmentally friendly?*
 - *yes, there are discussions around this*

6. City Council Liaison Report - Councilperson Gavin

Contracted with County to participate in restaurant relief fund (i.e. outdoor seating)

Adopted parks & rec 5 year plan

Closed session regarding marijuana plan

ECO-Works Meeting Summary re: revolving fund

- *What are the most important goals?*
- *How do we identify success with this program?*
- *Start with municipal buildings, grow to sustainable fund and expand to Berkley businesses*
- *High level discussions regarding funding*
 - *Was there discussion about regarding the amount of money we would need to start off with? Or is this project / scope dependent?*
 - *?What can BEAC do to assist with funding sources?*
 - *Conduct research on funding sources, write a letter of support to the city – yes to both*
 - *Reanalyze energy plan for “low-hanging fruit” projects to start with*

7. Discussion Item: Community Garden

- *Jill Robinson was unable to present, and will present in March*
- *LaSelle space – Jessica wrote mission statement to obtain to space at this location, will have to go in front of their board and make a case for to obtain land for the community garden. Has been working with William Ash.*
 - *Plan is to section areas and grow specific vegetables and fruits, and use volunteers each week to help maintain the garden. The food would be free to the volunteers or community members*
 - *City could donate compost and equipment as needed (tractor to till the ground), and support via their website*
 - *What is the timeline if we want to get a garden in this year? Would want want garden started end of march/April*
 - *Any idea of number of volunteers needed to maintain the garden?*
 - *Would we need other equipment – lights/fencing?*
 - *Insurance been discussed? - no*
 - *Water hookups available, possible to use rain barrels with saucers*
- *Former Ice Rink – Environmental soil study in area didn't detect contamination- could this be an alternate spot for the garden?*

8. Discussion Item: Implementation of Green Infrastructure Recommendations

- *Mark sent memorandum to BEAC group*
- *Don Carpenter identified 5 or 6 areas within the city for green infrastructure installations*
- *Would like to identify one to two locations for pilot studies*
 - *City parking lot at catalpa and Coolidge, adjacent to the athletic fields*
 - *Harvard & Oxford, west of Rogers School*
- *Karyn reviewed the report and would like more time reviewing the reports, thinks can answer by March meeting*

9. Old Business - *none*

11. New Business - *none*

12. Announcements - *none*

13. Adjourn

Next meeting third Thursday in March