

Initial Meeting Minutes

Ad Hoc Community Advisory Committee on Climate Change and Environment

January 12, 2024, 6 pm via Zoom

Committee Members Present:

Patricia Canessa

Leni Berliner

Aleisha Bynum

Philip Lu

Sonya Starnes

Emmanuel DSilva (joined meeting later)

Regrets:

Christine Knauer

Joyce Mushaben

Others Present:

Martha Solt, Village Council Liaison and Temporary Chair

Rodrigo Valderama (joined meeting later, visitor)

Al Muller (visitor)

- I. Ms. Solt opened and led the meeting until the committee selected a temporary chair. Introductions were made by the committee members.
- II. Review of Mission Statement (see attached)
 - a. Committee selects its own chair by majority vote
 - i. The Committee deferred this decision until the next meeting due to the absence of so many members
 - b. Committee presents to the Village and makes recommendations periodically; best practices for adoption by the Village government
- III. Committee meetings are subject to the Maryland Open Meetings Act
 - a. All meetings of the committee are public
 - b. Any members of the public may attend
 - c. Minutes must be kept and approved at the next meeting
 - d. A quorum (majority of the members) should not meet (in person, by email, electronically) to discuss committee business, as that is a violation of the Maryland Open Meetings Act
- IV. The Committee voted unanimously for Leni Berliner to serve as Temporary Chairman for the remainder of the meeting.
- V. Regular meeting schedule – **next meeting, Thursday February 15, 2024 8 pm by Zoom**

- VI. Ideas to consider:
- a. New construction – Bobby Pestronk explained the current status of the 500 Wisconsin Ave site; if members have questions of interest to ask the developer, please forward them to the committee chairman who will collect and forward them to Bobby Pestronk (Development Committee) (Leni Berliner)
 - b. Composting (Philip Lu and Emmanuel DSilva)
 - c. Drying clothes - Philip Lu made reference to the new Maryland law that forbids prohibition of clotheslines in condominiums, homeowner associations and cooperatives. (SB 224 - “Right-to-Dry” legislation)
 - d. Mr. Muller suggested that the committee look into a law regarding buildings switching from gas to electric. Mr. Muller noted recent testimony on greenhouse gases by Beryl Blecher, Willoughby
 - e. Transportation – Patricia Canessa mentioned legislation regarding buying of electric cars; the Village is in the process of putting out an RFP to re-bid the Village shuttle contract; the RFP requests pricing for an electric option.
 - f. Food scrap pick up at Farmers Market; Willard Towers and Elizabeth already do composting
 - g. Would be good for Friendship Heights buildings to share Energy benchmarking scores with each other. (Sonya Starnes)

Consider focusing on a hyper-local project for immediate success

The next meeting will select a Chairman and focus on new ideas.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 pm. The next meeting will be Thursday, February 15th, at 8 pm via Zoom.