

Chesapeake Environmental Improvement Council
Meeting Minutes – February 27, 2020
Rivercrest Community Center

Attendees: Rogard Ross-Chair, Lauren Ragsac-Secretary

- Council Members: Vikki Barnette, Robert Beaton, Denise Cordeiro-Bennett, Becky Greenwald, Sandy Madison, Dave, Sackett, Adrienne Sawyer, Amy Weber
- Parks, Recreation & Tourism Staff (PRT): Josh Fisher, Ana Elezovic, Megan Hale
- Guests: Kathy Russell, TFC Recycling, Roger Fuller

Welcome and Introductions: Rogard opened the meeting at 12:03 and welcomed members and guests.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the January meeting were sent by email. With minor suggested modifications, minutes were approved unanimously.

- I. Environmental Tip – Kathy offered a recycling tip regarding plastic film (“wrapables”); these materials jam equipment and are not recyclable. Tarps, hoses, textiles, and cords get tangled in the equipment and are very problematic. She noted that public education around recycling has moved more toward emphasizing that consumers recycle paper, bottles and cans, as these items constitute 75 percent of marketable recyclables.
- II. Environmental Group Spotlight – Rogard reminded members that each month they suggest nominating an individual, group, or business for annual environmental awards. No nominations were given for the February meeting.
- III. Updates
 - A. Position Vacancies – Amy reported on nominations for Vice-Chair–no nominations had been made. Becky Greenwald agreed to fill out the remainder of this term. Dave Sackett made a motion to nominate Becky. No second is required for the nomination. Becky was unanimously approved as Vice-Chair. Also, two new CEIC members have been approved (Bruce Weckworth and Denise Cordeiro-Bennett). There are currently 19 members on the roster. Upon the expiration of Amy Weber’s term on Feb. 28, the roster will drop to 18 members. Rogard noted that he will be reaching out to several current members who have missed a number of meetings.
 - B. Chesapeake Conservation Conference and Awards Luncheon –Rogard thanked subcommittee members for their contributions in planning the event, which is scheduled for Friday, March 6. Thus far, about 60 people are signed up for the Conference. Roughly the same number are signed up for the luncheon. Some of the awardees have RSVP’ed. Several sponsors have agreed to support the event. Megan noted that there are still a few volunteer tasks open, including note takers. For those who have volunteered already, she will send an email confirming their roles and times to report to the convention center. The CEIC will have a dedicated table for the luncheon. Seating will be open for those not already part of a specific table. Lanyards and name tags will be provided for CEIC members/volunteers.

- C. Conservation Landscaping/License Plate Committee – Becky gave an update on the progress made on three beautification projects – Georgetown traffic circle, Central library, and Indian River library. Mike Barber will require a memo officially requesting funds be allocated from the license plate fund (currently \$92,000) for these projects. The first priority for funding is the Georgetown traffic circle, followed by Indian River library circle, and then Central library circle. The committee believes that all three projects can be covered by money currently in the fund. In addition, ongoing maintenance by various volunteer groups is being arranged for each location to ensure long-term success of these projects. Becky requested the CEIC vote to approve the use of license plate funds for the projects. Josh suggested that the approval be streamlined by securing funds for all three projects together, as the total cost is not expected to approach the full amount of the fund and all three projects are already in the pipeline. Rogard suggested capping it at \$25,000. Amy suggested making a motion to request that up to \$30,000 of the fund be made available to cover the cost of these three projects. The motion passed unanimously. Becky noted that the committee is planning to develop a formal application process for future projects. The committee will present the application procedures to the CEIC for approval at the next monthly meeting.
- D. Tree Board – The TB is working on a job description for the City Forester position. Mike Perry provided an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) description to be used as a guideline in writing the job description and qualifications. By next meeting, the TB plans to finalize the job description and present it to Mike Barber. Megan asked if the TB plans to designate a Chair. Rogard plans to continue as Interim Chair for the next couple of months.
- E. Earth Day Proclamation – Members reviewed the draft proclamation. Rogard asked for final input before going forward with approval. As a quorum was no longer present at the meeting, it was not voted on. Rogard will, in the meantime, forward the proclamation to the Mayor’s office.
- F. Use of Calendar Funds – Megan noted that CEIC 2019-20 calendar sales have generated over \$800. Proceeds are to be used for “environmental programs and projects”. Megan solicited ideas for how the CEIC might use these funds. Becky suggested using the funds to offset the cost of the Conservation Conference/Luncheon. Megan noted that the awards given out will be the same as last year and will cost around \$900, so the funds could be used for something like that. Sandy suggested holding off on making a determination on how to best use the funds. Members agreed to wait.
- G. Clean and Green poster contest – Megan noted that 2,500 students have registered to participate. This number far exceeds the number of students who participated last year. The deadline for students to register is March 2. The deadline for poster submissions is March 27.

IV. New Business

- A. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Recommendations – Rogard recently met with the Mayor to discuss the state of recycling. The City is going to reevaluate its contract on July 1, when the new FY starts. A final decision has not yet been made to continue curbside recycling. The Mayor told Rogard that he would welcome CEIC input on the matter. Rogard will solicit input from CEIC members via email and also asked Kathy Russell to provide a brief presentation on the state of recycling in Chesapeake for the next monthly meeting. Rogard framed the issue as considering pros and cons of curbside pickup vs. drop off bins, willingness of residents to pay a monthly fee, and what steps can be taken to improve recycling rates. He would like to develop a set of recommendations for the April meeting and asked whether we should post on FB to solicit input from the public. Megan will work with Rogard on publishing a FB post.

V. Seeking Volunteers

- Awards Luncheon and Conference, 3/6, 9-5: Volunteers are still needed for this event.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting of the CEIC will take place on March 25, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lauren Ragsac, Secretary