

Chesapeake Environmental Improvement Council
Meeting Minutes - October 28, 2020, 12:00 PM
Video Conference Meeting

An electronic meeting is being held pursuant to and in compliance with the Amended Ordinance adopted by Chesapeake City Council on April 28, 2020 to effectuate temporary changes in certain deadlines and to modify public meeting and public hearing practices and procedures to address continuity of operations associated with pandemic disaster.

Attendees: Denise Cordeiro-Bennett-Vice Chair, Lauren Ragsac-Secretary,

- Council Members: Vikki Barnette, Sydney Covey, Lacy Kuller, Sandy Madison, Bobby Nance, Mike Perry, Rogard Ross, Dave Sackett, Adrienne Sawyer, Bruce Weckworth. A quorum was present.
- Associate Members: Heather Barlow, Amy Weber
- Parks, Recreation & Tourism (PRT) Staff: Josh Fisher, Megan Hale, Ana Elezovic
- Guests: Bill Gregory, Djeneba Kiema, Lauren Landis, Laverne Morgan, Vic Nicholls

I. Welcome and Introductions: Denise (filling in for Chair, Becky Greenwald) opened the meeting at 12:04 PM and welcomed members and guests. She read the announcements required under the Electronic public meetings ordinance. The secretary Vikki Barnette (filling in for Lauren Ragsac) took roll call.

II. Environmental Tip: Rogard urged members to vote on Tuesday, Nov 3, 2020. Denise mentioned Your Green Life Magazine.

III. Environmental Group Spotlight: Rogard noted the Elizabeth River Project, in conjunction with the River Star Program, is giving away native trees, while supplies last, to members of the River Star Program. Amy mentioned the Green Drinks Group, headed by Lacy, and advised while the group has not been meeting in person, it is still engaged in promoting green initiatives.

IV. Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the September 23rd meeting were sent by email. No changes were determined to be needed and the minutes were approved as written.

V. Updates

A. **Litter and Pollution Prevention Committee:** Chair Lacy Kuller reported the committee met last week to discuss the Clean and Green poster contest. A flyer has been created to advertise the contest. The committee has formed a partnership with Green Drinks and CEIC to do quarterly cleanups. Lacy will identify locations that need work and asked members to please advise if they see areas that require attention. Becky would like to have a cleanup in November and Lacy has plans to organize one for January. The Mayor has approved the CEIC partnering with Preventballoonlitter.org, which is an awareness group. The CEIC would list its logo on the site as a partner organization. Rogard made a motion for the CEIC to use its logo on the preventballoonlitter.org website. Sandy Madison seconded the motion. Members unanimously approved the motion. The committee is also focusing on the straws and utensils on request campaign in association with Keep it Beachy Clean. Signage for Adopt-A-Park is being funded from the litter grant fund. Looking into purchasing trash cans with lids at Deep Creek Lock Park. Exploring options for giveaways to be purchased from this fund such as reusable produce bags. To date, we've spent about \$4,000. Should find out the amount we're being awarded soon but historically, it's between \$20-\$30k.

B. Waste Reduction & Recycling Committee: Chair Denise Cordeiro-Bennett reported that Jason Brown in Public Works is getting information for the committee regarding waste disposal in Chesapeake. A meeting is scheduled for Nov 5. Denise will send information via email regarding the results of this meeting.

C. Beautification Committee: Co-Chairs Vikki Barnette and Mike Perry

Notable Yards: Vikki reported winners were visited by Megan and presented with certificates and White's gift cards. Megan has written a press release for publication in the Clipper. Each week one winner will be highlighted on the CEIC Facebook page.

Adopt-A-Garden: The committee is still working on identifying owners for each garden.

Calendar Photo Contest: Vikki advised she, Becky, Megan and Jim Knox (professional photographer) judged over 50 photos and selected 13 to comprise the 2021 calendar. Megan said the calendar will be available for purchase by the end of the year for the suggested donation of \$5.00.

Business Beautification Award: Mike reported the judges (including representatives of the architectural firm RRMM) evaluated six nominees. This year's winner is Oman Funeral Home on Cedar Road. The business will receive a certificate sometime next week. The committee is hoping to partner with Chesapeake Economic Development next year to get more nominations. Sydney mentioned contacting environmental businesses for ideas to help beautify the city. Denise complimented Mike on the revised judging sheet and recommended a mass distribution.

D. Conservation Landscaping/License Plate Committee: Chair Becky Greenwald

Megan provided an update on behalf of Becky. The license plate fund application will be posted to the CEIC website; a promotional flyer is in development. The Central Library circle project is moving forward. The historic millstone is now slated to be moved. The DAR local chapter via Heather Barlow has submitted an application to adopt that garden. Discussions and planning are currently taking place with PR&T and key volunteers to renovate the gardens around City Hall. Lauren advised she has been working on drafting landscape plans for the beds around City Hall.

E. Tree Board: Chair Rogard Ross reported a small Arbor Day ceremony was held at Battlefield Park on Oct 27, 2020. Ed and Linda Bradley planted the ceremonial Maple tree. A video of the event is available at the CEIC Facebook page. Rogard reported nineteen possible sites have been submitted thus far as possible locations for tree planting. Rogard encouraged members to continue nominating sites for consideration. A committee meeting is planned for Nov to focus on how to move the program forward. He has no news on the Urban Forester position.

F. Newsletter Committee: Chair Becky Greenwald/Editor Sydney Covey. Sydney has agreed to act as Editor for the newsletter. She asked that chairs of the various committees submit items. Megan noted the deadline for submissions is November 15. Denise encouraged members to provide input and suggestions for how to make the newsletter successful. Sydney reminded members that photos and other graphics should be submitted in addition to a text narrative. Sydney solicited suggestions for a catchy title for the newsletter.

G. Keep Chesapeake Beautiful Photo Calendar Contest: Megan is hoping to have the calendar available by the end of November or beginning of December. The company producing the calendar this year is using recycled paper and soy based ink.

H. Calendar Funds: Megan advised the suggested donation of \$5.00 for the calendar goes into the CEIC fund. There is approximately \$800.00 in the fund and a decision needs to be made regarding how to use those funds.

I. Environmental Awards Luncheon/Conservation Conference: Chair Rogard Ross. Rogard advised after meeting with Megan, Josh and Becky and reviewing the Chesapeake Conference Center COVID safety protocol that having a conference in March would not be practical. The awards luncheon may still be held. He is currently looking for a keynote speaker to address urban forestry. Megan noted the 2021 Awards Luncheon will be the focus for next year as it is a historic event.

VI. New Business

CEIC still has one vacancy. Megan said one guest today has expressed an interest and has applied to be a member.

VII. Seeking Volunteers

A. Cigarette Litter Prevention Campaign at City Hall and Central Library- no date has been set. Megan relayed volunteers are needed to man venues.

B. Arboretum Invasive Species Removal work day is scheduled for Friday 6 Nov.

C. Chesapeake Recycles Day, November 14th 8:00 am - 12:00 pm at TCC Chesapeake campus.
Lauren and Vikki volunteered

D. CEIC Litter Cleanup dates in November TBD.

VII. Citizen Comments: Bill Gregory expressed thanks for letting him join the meeting and stated he appreciates all the CEIC does. Vic Nicholls also expressed appreciation for the work being done. Amy Weber asked why there is no December meeting planned? She suggested the executive committee look at the possibility of having a meeting in December. Denise said Becky thanks everyone for all the hard work and accomplishments made so far in 2020. She also reminded us this is the last CEIC meeting of the year. Look for emails from Megan to keep us informed of the remainder of events in 2020. Megan remarked on the great structure, notes, and organization as well as the heart behind the work being accomplished.

Denise adjourned the meeting at 1:15. The next meeting of the CEIC is January 27, 2021.