

Chesapeake Environmental Improvement Council
Meeting Minutes - September 25, 2019
Rivercrest Community Center

Attendees: Rogard Ross-Chair, Jason Brown-Vice-Chair, Lauren Ragsac-Secretary

- Council Members: Vikki Barnette, Bob Fountain, Becky Greenwald, David Sackett, Adrienne Sawyer, Levin Turner, Amy Weber
- Parks, Recreation & Tourism Staff (PRT): Josh Fisher, Ana Elezovic (City of Chesapeake Park Planner)
- City of Chesapeake – Sandy Madison
- Guests: Mike Andruczyk, Rob Beaton

I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Rogard opened the meeting at 12:05 and welcomed members and guests and asked for participants to give introductions.

- Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the August meeting were sent by email. The following corrections were requested: the meeting start time should be 12:03, not 1:03; Vikki Barnette's last name is missing the "e" on the end. Also, the upcoming meeting dates were to be corrected on the agenda, not the minutes. Amy made a motion to approve with corrections and seconded to approve the August meeting minutes. All approved.

II. Environmental Tip

Becky offered a tip that, with fall coming, gardeners hold off before trimming down seed heads of perennials and not getting overly zealous in cleaning gardens. The seed heads provide food for birds like finches, and other plant debris provides habitat for overwintering insects.

III. Updates

- Conference Committee – Rogard noted that he emailed Mike Barber, who spoke with Mark Woodard in the Planning Department on the subject of funding the conference. The Planning Department will not have funds to contribute for the conference. Rogard spoke to Josh about setting up a meeting with Mike Barber to finalize the funding with Parks, Recreation, and Tourism. A number of panelists are interested in participating in the conference, so the next step is to advertise the event. One outstanding item is deciding whether to use moderators on the panels. Dave Sackett will approach Admiral Ann Phillips about participating.
- License Plate Committee – Josh noted that he still needs to schedule the meeting with Mike Barber to finalize timelines and implementation details on upcoming beautification projects.
- Tree Board – Bob Fountain noted that the Tree Board has been actively working on reinstating the Urban Forester position, which has been vacant for the last eight years. PRT last had budgeting for this position. Bob and Mike A. interviewed several people (Roxanne Stonecypher, and Eric Martin, Director of Public Works) to ascertain which department would be willing to provide budgeting for the position. The City will support the funding of a position, but it has to be assigned to a department. Mike Barber and Eric Martin are supportive. Whichever department provides for the position, it will have to be placed in their budget and then presented to City Council for approval. The Tree Board has a written job description for the position. Bob pointed out that the position would actually save the City money in the long run.
- Calendar Contest – Josh reported that the contest is now closed; a good showing of entries was submitted. He is waiting for Megan to return to review the photos. The plan is to get the judging completed before the holidays. Lauren, Sandy, Adrienne and David volunteered to be

judges. The calendar is given away at various events, and some of them are “sold” for a suggested donation. The calendar contest is not a revenue-generating project.

- Business Beautification – The deadline has been extended to Oct. 14. Only two entries have been received so far: Great Bridge shopping center and Town Center Greenbrier. Rogard encouraged members to nominate businesses.
- Scholarship Program – Dave Sackett circulated a revised draft of the letter to be sent to the Mayor. A correction needs to be made to ICA – it should be ISA. Becky and Vikki noted that in initial discussions of the scholarship program among CEIC members the scholarship was not limited to just arboriculture, but would also include horticulture. After brief discussion, Rogard and members agreed that the wording “The college has several horticultural programs which would be closely related to the mission of the CEIC” to indicate that students in the Horticulture program would also be eligible. Amy suggested that the closing of the letter should be changed to “CEIC”, not CEIC Board. Also, the signature line should be “Rogard Ross, Chair, CEIC”. Rogard will make the final changes to the letter and add letterhead. Other minor wording changes were suggested. Sandy confirmed that this scholarship program will be approved by the Mayor. Dave made a motion to approve final changes to the letter. Vikki seconded, all approved.

IV. Seeking Volunteers

- Chesapeake Recycles Day –Saturday, October 12, 9-12 at Greenbrier Mall; Jason noted that the last Chesapeake Recycles Day event at the Western Branch location was very well attended. The date had been rescheduled due to weather, so a lot of social media and publicity was done, and he feels this actually helped boost attendance. More than 300 cars came through. For the upcoming event at Greenbrier Mall the location will be the same as last year - the parking lot on the SE corner of the mall across from J.C. Penny’s. Vikki, Dave, Sandy, Amy and Rogard volunteered to help at the October 12 event. Members were asked to check their availability for the Chesapeake Recycles Day at the TCC Chesapeake campus on November 14.
- Arbor Day/Autumn Fest – October 5, 9:30-4:30; Josh asked for volunteers to work the event. Rogard, Sandy, and Amy volunteered.

V. New Business

- Earth Day 2020/50th Anniversary - Rogard will draft a proclamation for the Mayor to mark the 50th anniversary of Earth Day 2020. Sandy Madison will provide Rogard with samples of what the City considers acceptable format and verbiage to be used in the proclamation.
- Schools representative – Levin Turner has applied to be the CEIC representative to the School Facilities Steering Committee.
- Conservation Landscaping – Becky has formed a committee consisting of Vikki, Mike, and Lauren to meet with Mike Barber on September 30 to discuss a landscape project at the Indian River library.
- Holiday Party – CEIC members decided on December 4 for the holiday party. Amy and Becky volunteered to head up a planning committee.

- City Tree Canopy – Becky noted that Mike Perry has documented the tree canopy planted as a result of new building permits. The number of trees planted is 905; of this number, 864 are large trees and 41 are small trees.
- Free Tree Resources – Levin said he had a conversation with a homeowner inquiring how he might get a grant to purchase trees or be given trees to plant on his acreage. Mike Andruczyk asked that the homeowner contact him directly for more information.
- Adopt-a-Drain – Jason briefed CEIC members on the City’s plan to start an Adopt-a-Drain program in early 2020. He said that, while it is not feasible to have signs on drains identifying who has adopted the site, it would be possible to have a storm water medallion on the adopted drains. Medallions can be obtained through Ask HR Green.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m. The next meeting of the CEIC will take place on October 23, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lauren Ragsac, Secretary