



Town of Vienna

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Meeting Minutes

Conservation and Sustainability Commission

Thursday, October 28, 2021

7:30 PM

Town Hall

1. Continuity of Government

Approved and found for the October 28, 2021, meeting that the usual conservation and sustainability commission procedures cannot be implemented safely or practically; and all agenda items are necessary to address the attack, emergency, crisis or disaster, and the failure to act on these agenda items could result in irrevocable public harm; and/or all agenda items are necessary and essential to assure the continuity of town government.

2. Roll Call

Mr. Burns, Ms. Caplan, Mr. Comerford, Ms. DiMauro, Ms. Esswein, Ms. Persaud, Mr. Robinson, Ms. Weinberg, and Ms. Caplan were present. Ms. Chandra was absent.

3. Communication from Citizens and/or Commissioners

4. Approval of the Minutes

Moved to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2021 meeting. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Regular Business

New Business

A. Discussion of Vienna Voice articles for continuity of messaging during COVID-19

Discussion of Vienna Voice articles for continuity of messaging during COVID-19
October article on controlling invasive species was well-received. November (Winterizing Garden) issue article has been supplied to Town PIO to publish. This article also addressed the leaf blower issue. Agreed on December article on Fairfax County Disposable Plastic Bag Tax Ordinance, which goes into effect January 1, 2022. Members would also like to include a short paragraph on eco-friendly holiday gifting like donations to TOV (tree, bench, art) or promote gift cards from local sustainable businesses as low waste options. Ms. Caplan to check with PIO on this.

January 2022 article to Town PIO will focus on sustainable cleaning: toxics in products, what enters the water supply when cleaning, decluttering. Ms. Persaud to write it. Discussion on what happens to the Christmas trees collected by the Town after the holiday. Mr. Robinson to check. February article idea: explain how "You Can Compost!". Mr. Burns to write it.

Old Business

- A. Update on Green Expo to adjust for COVID-19 limitations
- B. Update on Vienna Sustainability challenge awardees, publicity, and ceremony during COVID-19

- C. Update on CSC participation in Comprehensive Plan update
- D. Update on Fall Native Plant Sale
- E. Update on invasive plant removal efforts and native/pollinator garden initiatives
- F. Update on Solarize/SolSmart programs and time sensitive solar and resilience grants
- G. Update on Town Council approved compost collection
- H. Update on Town Council approved pro bono tree project
- I. Website and social media updates for continuity of messaging during COVID-19
- J. Update on VPAC and Windover Heights Board of Review meeting
- K. Update on CSC appointments for continuity of government during COVID-19

Update on Green Expo to adjust for COVID-19 limitations

Initiate planning for April 28, 2022, Green Expo at the Vienna Community Center.

Ms. Caplan and Ms. Esswein will take the lead and remaining commission members will assist on this event. Meeting spaces to be reserved with Parks & Recreation.

Consideration to hold events indoors with vendors, presentations, and activities in different rooms. Commission members discussed activities like bingo games for kids, family and eco-friendly green movie, expansion on the number of vendors and presentations (eg, Charlie Foster from Fairfax Environment Group), promotion of alt fuel vehicles, Solarize Vienna, and Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP). Discussed potentially charging vendors for participation in Green Expo. Additional discussion with the Town Finance Department required.

Update on Vienna Sustainability Challenge during COVID-19

Local business gift cards distributed to Oktoberfest raffle winners.

Ms. DiMauro and Mr. Comerford to update the checklist for businesses and focus on new businesses to take the challenge.

Update on CSC participation in Comprehensive Plan

CSC comments have been included in latest draft of the Comprehensive Plan. The Plan will next be forwarded to Town staff to review, then public hearings will start with additional feedback requested from CSC.

Update on Fall Native Plant Sale

Janet would like to make donation to CSC, town, or student volunteers. Discussed leftover plant donations from this event for the 2022 Spring sale, as well as any acknowledgements for donations. Commission recommended getting a CSC tablecloth and t-shirts or hats to identify members at CSC events. Ms. Persaud will research a sustainable tablecloth from McCabe printing. Include with FY 2022-2023 budget request.

Update on invasive plant removal efforts and native/pollinator garden initiatives

Mr. Robinson discussed the new sign and additional plantings for the Meadow Lane native garden. Mr. Edwards spoke on local park restoration and removal of invasive plant species. In addition to Thursday morning volunteer efforts, November 6th and December 4th are scheduled to remove invasive plants and install native plantings at Glyndon Park. There are also two independent volunteers working on invasive removals at Southside and Wildwood Parks. Nov. 9 is a closed volunteer event with Lorian Wood School. Commission recommended that the Thursday morning P&R volunteer invasive removal efforts be publicized by Town PIO.

Update on Solarize/Solsmart programs

Commission is looking for a volunteer (ideally with climate/energy efficiency background) to be lead on Solarize and energy/climate issues. Mr. Robinson plans to continue participating with the Fairfax County Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) working sessions.

Update on Town compost collection

Commission will focus on educating the community on ease of backyard composting and need for removal of food waste from landfills. Discussed composting bin raffle at CSC-sponsored events. Hold a masterclass on composting for residents. Engage residents with an at-home composting challenge. #ViennaComposts to showcase how Vienna residents compost. Duplicate what a homeowner can do in a Town-owned green space. Focus on the rewards and challenges of composting at home.

Mr. Burns to write a Vienna Voice article for February-March 2022 on composting at home with local photos.

Update on Town Council approved pro bono tree project

Interviews are wrapping up and working on report/recommendations.

Mr. Scott Diffenderfer, Town Urban Arborist, is working on the RFP for the Urban Tree Canopy (URC) Assessment funded with matching grant from DOF and TOV. Mr. Edwards has submitted requests to the Town Finance Dept. for CSC and town tree-related items to be funded by ARPA monies. Council will discuss ARPA monies on November 8, 2021. CSC to email support to Council. Successful CSC sponsored tree planting initiative with seedlings provided by Fairfax ReLeaf held on Saturday, October 23, 2021. All 100 bare root seedlings were distributed and rain barrel was raffled off. Scott Diffendorfer was on hand to answer questions. Ms. Esswein will work with Fairfax ReLeaf to host another event in Spring – with fruit and smaller trees, bushes and shrubs giveaways.

Website and social media updates for continuity of messaging during COVID-19

Ms. Esswein will focus Green Tips of the Week on placing gardens to bed for the winter. Discussed a need for more trash cans or more frequent trash pickups around Town. Green Tips to promote web portal for residents to report issues online such as dead/diseased trees, trash/recycling, parks maintenance, etc.

Update on VPAC and Windover Heights Board of Review meeting

VPAC is focused on fundraising and its nonprofit status. The Committee is also in search of another vendor for the Harmony Park art installation. There was no update regarding Windover Heights Board of Review activities.

6. Meeting Adjournment

THE TOWN OF VIENNA IS COMMITTED TO FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT STANDARDS. TRANSLATION SERVICES, ASSISTANCE OR ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS FROM PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ARE TO BE REQUESTED NOT LESS THAN 3 WORKING DAYS BEFORE THE DAY OF THE EVENT. PLEASE CALL (703) 255-6304, OR 711 VIRGINIA RELAY SERVICE FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED.