

Commission Members:

Lissa Leege, Carolyn Altman (rolling off), Melanie Sparrow (rolling off), Charly Kinship, Helen Rosko, Jon Cook, Victor Dickey, Beth Harrell, Kristine Yager-Rushton, Karen Sanders



50 EAST MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 348
STATESBORO, GEORGIA 30459-0348
AGENDA

Greener Boro Commission
Thursday, June 29, 2023
6:00 PM
City Council Chambers

Attendees: CA, LL, MS, VD, KS, CK, Marcos Trejo, Hannah Dugan (visitor), Andrew Michaud (visitor)

- I. Call to order 6:05pm
- II. Approval of minutes from June 4, 2023 1st CA, VD 2nd

III. New Business

- A. Thank you to members rolling off, welcome to new members
(Introductions: Charly Kinship -Really Free Market, Helen Rosko-Professor of Geography, Beth Harrell) July 8th: Free market at DPR Architecture parking lot; Jonathan McCollar will hold a town meeting 9am.
- B. Discussion of green space objectives: Presentation from City of Statesboro r.e. green space resources and regulations (Marcos)
 1. Increase public and private green space
 2. Conserve biological/environmental green space, including wetlands
 - MT: New Ordinances for Commercial-5 areas they are involved in for reconstruction; trying to get incoming development to incorporate more greenspaces. 15% is the minimum greenspace allowed, has to be soil/vegetation/sod. Tree canopy 35%, list of approved trees via Tree Advisory Board. 60% of total parking lot has to be canopy-trying to cover impervious areas. Publix & Smallmart are examples of what they are aiming for.
 - New plan includes more regulations, tree care, Robert Smiley as the soon to be arborist. City gets a lot of pushback, some businesses intentionally try to kill parking lot trees so buildings can be seen. If we see any new parking lot trees dying, report to

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Marcos. Discussion about impervious surfaces, French drains and the example at the Botanic Garden.

- Vegetative structures to act as buffers. 25 ft. of greenspace required.
- Stormwater Manager Manual is limbo to be included at this stage. This includes more stringent policies for water quality. Only way to encourage change is to lobby and contact City Council.
- 190 acres of parks within the City/County. All parks except for Edgewood are managed by the County.
- 350 acres of wetlands; first property city acquires are wetlands, City takes over to protect them and private owners donate so they don't have to pay taxes. Lotts Creek wetlands are owned by the City. Army Corps is the one to approve development in wetlands, then followed by the City, this requires permits. There may be grants for purchasing wetlands-something for GB to look for.
- Grants discussion about who can write them. Charlie is a certified grant writer. Many grants available currently through the Inflation Reduction Act
- CA-Georgia Hi Lo Route meetings discussed bike path near wetlands. LL asked CA to share Hi Lo tentative map for path.
- Perennial, Intermittent and Ephemeral Waters. City determines which is which. Bank is formed it is intermittent. 25 ft buffer for P & I; City can enforce this and is doing that more so now. Helps with erosion and water quality. Streambank restoration in btw Bridge to the Farmers Market and Jones St. City didn't actually need to grant, it was more of an example and getting familiar with the process.
- CA mentioned that there is no public space to enjoy wildlife here; what about Bird Pond and the area adjacent to the beginning of the S&S Greenway Trail. VD mentioned family foundations for large landowners. MT wants to create a water feature for all the runoff we create and then put it back into the creek. CA mentioned the idea of returning Statesboro to the historic swamp that is once was; MT said that when we try to correct things, we are many times making it worse. "The more we build, the more water we create"-MT Money is what is going to get these projects moving.
- Floodplains will be saved for next time.

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C. Greener Boro Protocol/Template for Proposals to city

- Follow chain of command - Goals, Objectives, Action item for each proposal - send through Marcos to city manager. Once approved by city manager, propose to city council. August 15th City Council work session at 3 or 4pm. GB can do 8 minute presentation on what we have accomplished, then present proposals that need approval. For ex: Green Star Award for businesses.
- August guest speaker about how to create and propose a resiliency plan on August 3rd Elizabeth Rowe (majority of the meeting). Ask this to be featured in Grice Connect along with a meeting reminder.
- LL convo with BM about GA Power residential program for free energy efficiency upgrades if customers are income qualified. Meeting with One Boro about overlap with Env. Justice about how our commissions can team up to host energy efficiency workshops through a community resource fair. In the meantime, GB can attend the County community resource fair Aug. 19 at Luetta Moore Park. VD 1st, CA 2nd.
- Drawdown GA Community Climate Solutions Grant: LL reached out to Restoring the Breach, a local Equity non-profit to ask if they would be interested in submitting this; GB will assist with application to ultimately partner with Restoring the Breach and One Boro towards climate and equity goals (\$100,000 each year for two years; letter of introduction due 7.7.23). CA 1st, MS 2nd.

IV. Old Business**A. Repair Cafe**

1. Partnership with Fab Lab starting Jul 14, 2023 YAY! Director of BIG agreed to take on costs, hosting, provide food, schedule experts. Requests are GB commits to 1x a month (2nd Friday of the month Fix it Friday) and food must be included. GB must have 1 rep to work it each time & City would need to assist with marketing-Lane? Template needed for Lane. Victor can staff 7/14. VD 1st, CA 2nd.
2. Organization/staffing, marketing for farmers market and Fab Lab events (2nd Fridays 6-8pm at Fab Lab; last Saturdays at Farmers Market 9-12:30) *We will not continue with the Farmers Market since we will be doing this with Fab Lab*

B. Greener Boro Business

1. Longer term partnership with KSBB - Greener Boro Business concept will be brought to City Council for approval in August

C. Greener Boro Webpage/ Social Media follow up

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-Lissa is working on a template for website including City & community resources

V. **Adjournment** (*to attend the summer concert series*) 1st CA, 2nd VD

VI. Action Items:

-Schedule Low & No Waste Seminar with Charly or at least have her present at one of the upcoming GB meetings. L&L at the Garden as well.

-Propose Drawdown Grant to August Council Meeting

-Appoint Secretary, Vice Chair and Treasurer at next meeting

Mission: *Continue to grow a resilient, welcoming and healthy Statesboro in which wise planning meets the clean air, water and other livability needs of all, including future generations.*