

SHP Meeting Summary 2/22/17

Attendees: Tina Weishaus, Irene Marx, Nicole Wines, Andy Benesch, Teri Hover, Allan Williams, Eli Goldstein, Wendy Rosen, Alex Casey, Matthew Schrage, Sylvia Hove, Adam Padavano, Chris Young, Lois Lebbing

I. SOLAR CHALLENGE (www.hpsolar.org)

1. Conference Call - Teri participated in a conference call with all municipalities involved in the solar challenge. Highland Park seems to be a few steps behind many of the municipalities in terms of outreach. We have sign-ups but not installations, along with most towns participating. Only one town in North Jersey has had any installations through the Solar Challenge program.
2. Continued Outreach - Letter was mailed to all households in December. Further outreach from borough could include Nixle notifications and an announcement in upcoming borough newsletter. SHP will also hold an info session at Earth Day and will look into participating in the May 7 Street Fair. The challenge ends in May, but the portal should remain open.
3. Additional Outreach Reminders/Follow Ups from last meeting
 - o Housing Authority Executive Director
 - o Borough buildings (Can someone talk to Kathy Kovach/Dan Bianchini about registering available borough properties with rooftop space with the HPSolar.org portal now that Jim is no longer serving as liaison?)
 - o Lawn signs, posters for kiosks and key locations, handouts/Q&As

II. SMART HOMES CAMPAIGN

1. This program is still available and needs more promotion. We left this as something to look into more.

III. SJ RECERTIFICATION

1. Kickoff/celebration meeting was held 2/16. The highlight of the meeting was the idea to assign a "sustainability delegate" from each committee and borough department that participates in helping with the certification/documentation process. Each SHP member would serve as liaison with several of those delegates to help guide with the documentation process. This would require that the mayor designates someone from each department and that the SHP liaisons would provide support in compiling and collecting documentation. Some departments do enough on certain actions to count for points, but won't or can't take the time to provide the documentation. Maybe some SHP members could those actions on and compile the documentation for those actions.
2. NOTE: Art Commission Chair Contact needs to be updated as Jonathan Horowitz is no longer part of the Arts Commission. New contact is Pandora Scooter (pandora@pandorascooter.com). Co-chair is John Marron (johnjmarron@gmail.com).

IV. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

1. We will move forward with the Waste Reduction and Recycling Campaign in our application for a Sustainable Jersey Grant. Deadline is Tuesday. The proposal will be multifaceted and include reusable bags for distribution to downtown businesses, recycling bins for businesses, print materials

and education, signage, potential film screenings, and funds for Main Street Highland Park liaison. Teri, Tina and others will be working on this over the weekend and submitting by the Tuesday deadline.

V. EARTH DAY

1. April 23 - Planning Committee is moving forward with tables and activities, music, workshops, food, and other logistics.
2. We will need a cleanup of the site and surrounding areas before Earth Day.
3. Mural/Sign - Nicole will speak to arts commission at this week's meeting and respond RE: the sign. If arts commission cannot provide or recommend an artist, Nicole volunteers to reach out to additional artists in the area.

VI. Raíces EcoCulture Workshops & Seed Library

1. Thanks to all who came out to vote and helped spread the word, Raíces EcoCulture won the 2017 Park Partners grant competition in the environmental category to launch the Sustainable Living Workshop Series co-sponsored by Sustainable Highland Park. We also seek to expand collaboration with the High School Environmental Club for this series. Nicole will propose workshop dates at the next SHP meeting. Series will be expanded on to provide year-round environmental and sustainability education programs around HP.
2. Seed library orientation meeting dates were proposed. Thursday March 16, 7:30-9pm and Saturday, March 18, 10:30am-noon. Allan will check the dates and confirm for use of space.

VII. RECYCLING COACH

1. The app has been soft-launched, and is available and ready to use, but has not been publicized or promoted yet as there are still some details to be added. As per last months notes, SHP members can look it over and will have an opportunity to add additional information and educational resources.

VIII. EC CHARGER

1. Project on hold for more research and information gathering. In the meantime, Tina will place us on the waiting list for the [DEP charging station grant program](#). If space opens in that program, we will need borough resolution to move forward on applying for grant program. As per last months notes, Jim was going to discuss this in council conference meeting to gauge council's feelings on this issue. Is there someone else on council we can ask to find out if this was discussed?

IX. HS UDATES

1. 2nd Green Challenge - Club members are checking classrooms for use of vampire energy and assigning green and red cards to each classroom depending on if they are good to go and using less energy or if they are using forms of vampire energy.
2. Cleanup Sunday on Adelaide - informal group cleanup
3. April 21 Eco-Fest - Still seeking additional speakers on environmental/ecological topics. Please get in touch with Eli or Matt who are co-presidents if interested in speaking or presenting. Speakers should

be prepared to present for 40 minutes, 4 times throughout this half-day event. Keynote speaker to be Dina Seidel who completed a documentary about Antarctica.

X. NEW BUSINESS

1. Lois Lebbing introduced a few concerns and questions including
 - Thrift shop needs bags and bins
 - Need for furniture recycling (unupholstered)
 - Need for pickup of electronics for recycling (instead of drop off only) - could charge \$5 per item
 - Continued need to get people to understand recycling system and how it works. She has neighbors that continue to believe that recycling gets mixed into trash collection because of confusion over single-stream and use of same trucks for garbage and recycling pick-ups.
2. All are welcome and invited to attend the Who Is My Neighbor, Inc Fundraiser concert, March 4, 3-5pm in the social hall of the Reformed Church of Highland Park. The Raíces Cultural Center Ensemble will be performing and dedicating their set to the water. After the performance, all are invited to stay and participate in a community potluck and discussion on moving forward and building stronger, greener communities.

XI. NEXT MEETING

1. Date/Time/Location – Wed. March. 22 / 7:30 PM / Borough Hall
2. Agenda – TBA