

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch
City Manager

SUBJECT: ***Status Report***

DATE: May 24, 2012

Status Report

1. Bike to Work Day

Last Friday, May 18th, was the annual Bike to Work Day event in the Washington, D.C. region. The organizers of this event are Commuter Connections (Council of Governments) and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA). As in years past, there were two pit stops in the City: outside the Food Court at the Bowie Town Center; and at the Huntington Fire Station in Old Town Bowie. Region-wide, the number of pit stops increased this year by nine locations, to 58. Event organizers had set a goal of 12,500 participants, which was exceeded by 200 riders. This year's number of cyclists was 12,700, which was 2,000 more riders than last year. According to Commuter Connections, five years ago, 6,600 riders participated in this event.

The Bowie Town Center pit stop had 38 pre-registrants, with 17 of those attending. In addition, there were five "walk-ups", for a total of 22 cyclists at the Bowie Town Center location. Seventeen cyclists pre-registered for the Old Town Bowie pit stop; 13 of those rode to that location. Two "walk-ups" also attended, for a total of 15 participants.

Special thanks this year are again extended to The Simon Property Group for offering their site as a pit stop and for donating snacks and beverages for the riders, and to the firefighters at the Huntington Fire Station for allowing us to use their location for the event.

DJD/JLF/asf

Attachment



City of Bowie

15901 Excalibur Road
Bowie, Maryland 20716

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: JUF David J. Deutsch, City Manager

SUBJECT: Bowie Green Team

DATE: May 24, 2012

As Council is aware, the Sustainable Maryland Certified Program requires that participating municipalities establish a local Green Team as the first step to establishing a community sustainability program. Green Teams leverage the skills, expertise and life experiences of team members to develop policies and plans, implement programs and assist with educational opportunities that support the creation of a sustainable community. The Program notes that taking the time to create a solid Green Team is essential to building a strategy for moving ahead with a community's sustainability efforts. On March 19, 2012 Council approved R-22-12 endorsing a membership roster for the Bowie Green Team, which currently consists of 28 volunteers and 12 members of the City's Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC).

The Bowie Green Team has met a total of four (4) times since its formation. The number of participants has declined over time. In addition, only several EAC members have expressed an interest in attending all Green Team meetings. Not counting EAC members, a quorum of the 28-member volunteer group is 15 members. While the first meeting was well attended, the number of volunteers attending later meetings has leveled off to about 12-14 members, as noted below:

Meeting Date	Number of Volunteers
March 5	20
March 26	17
April 25	12
May 21	14

Compliance with the Maryland Open Meetings Act (OMA) was discussed at the last two (2) Green Team meetings. Compliance with the OMA requires advance public notice of meetings, the presence of a quorum to do business, and taking of minutes. It was the consensus of the volunteers attending the last Green Team meeting that a small leadership group should be established to function as the Bowie Green Team Executive Board, which would take all of the "official" actions of the Bowie Green Team. Having a smaller decision-making group would enable the Green Team to more easily reach a quorum and be able to vote on matters of concern. The City Attorney also advised that having such a structure where policy recommendations formally originate will help in adhering to the Open Meetings Act. As a consequence of forming an executive board, the various topical subgroups of the

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Memo re: Bowie Green Team Structure

Bowie Green Team would be considered consultative only and would not be subject to the procedural guidelines for public notice, quorum and keeping of minutes under the OMA. The consensus of the members of the Bowie Green Team who attended the May 21st meeting was to support such a structure.

The Sustainable Maryland Certified Program guidelines suggest that Green Teams involve about 12-15 members, including citizens, local elected officials and local appointed officials. Staff suggests that Council create a 12-member Bowie Green Team Executive Board as a separate City Committee and appoint its members individually under the customary process. Twelve members of the current group have indicated a willingness to serve as members of this group. Given the interest and involvement of these individuals to date, Committee interviews do not appear necessary in this case. The remaining pool of volunteers will be encouraged to continue attending Green Team meetings, including topic-driven subgroup meetings convened by the Green Team Executive Board, and will collaborate as they have done in the past. Staff has discussed this subject with the EAC and the Green Team, and both groups see the need for, and are supportive of, this approach.

The submission requirements for Sustainable Maryland Certified state that the Green Team must be officially established for the community and the local government must officially designate the membership of the Green Team. Based on the above, which is intended to permit the Bowie Green Team to function efficiently and effectively in the future, staff recommends the creation of a Green Team Executive Board consisting of 12 members.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council support the creation of a Green Team Executive Board for Bowie Green Team.