

# Green Spaces Committee Meeting Minutes

8/13/18

**Location:** Station North Tool Library

## **Attendees:**

Adam Kutcher, Arman Mizani, Brian Levy, Monika Graves, Nancey Kinlin, Patricia Denver, & Lowell Larrison stopped by toward the end of meeting

## **Agenda**

- Collaboration with Tool Library
- Trees & Tree Wells
- Wonderground
- Green Space Meeting Schedule

## **Trees & Tree Wells**

Brian met with Andy Smith of Mt Vernon who has led efforts there to plant & maintain trees. MV has a dedicated trained crew of Tree Keepers. General agreement that training would be beneficial, Brian will share further information about signing up for training. Tree Keepers will supervise & schedule bi-annual plantings and pruning events.

Discussion of Tree Wells covered the benefit of sprucing up the wells/pits. From coordinated plantings and block-by-block beautification competitions to simply clearing trash and covering with mulch, would improve appearance of streetscape and improve resident morale.

Ideas were exchanged that would engage kids, such as:

- painted rocks in wells
- painting borders around the wells

Material options for low fencing/borders were discussed. The pits need to be permeable for stormwater.

- Wood (Cory)
- Wrought iron as a traditional method (Adam)
- Steel (Arman—SNTL could run a workshop to create simple steel borders that would require minimal expertise of participants.)

Coordinate with Master Gardeners Program & Baltimore Orchard Project (Adam) to help map, prune, & harvest existing fruit trees in Greenmount West (Montessori School). SNTL has ladders that could be used to harvest neighborhood fruit trees within neighborhood. Discuss with Baltimore Orchard Project possibility of planting fruit trees & berry bushes in small vacant lots (adopt-a-lot). (Note) Monika is in contact with Baltimore Orchard Project for The Wonderground.

Discussed having specialized lots (apple trees (fruit trees should be dwarf), pumpkin patch, berry bushes, tomatoes & basil, etc.). Maps & signs could be positioned throughout neighborhood directing people to different lots.

Resources: Big box stores (Home Depot, Lowes, Ace) & local nurseries are sources for donations (plants, materials, credit); Chesapeake Bay Trust Restoration Grant (proposals due September 13<sup>th</sup>).

## **Wonderground**

The Wonderground is the largest & most central of the green spaces in Greenmount West. There has already been significant investment by neighbors to adopt, plan, design & plant over the past 5 years, creating a valued venue and source of beauty & pride. There is a need for a regular group effort at cleaning & weeding. Suggestions: Hold bi-monthly maintenance event & secure grant funding to pay GW residents to do landscaping work. Ask Michael Harris if he is willing to supervise bi-monthly maintenance if we recruit volunteers.

## **Other Issues:**

- Trash: Raise grant funds for kid-centric project that would build creative frames for existing trash cans. To be built at SNTL with kids already engaged with Nancey's trash clean-ups as well as others recruited by coordinating with BYKE & the GWCA Community Center.

- Stipends for GW Residents: Paying GW residents to perform regular maintenance (trash pickup, weeding).
- Community Partnerships: with BYKE, SNTL, Montessori School, & BDS (in addition to OpenWorks).
- Clean & Green: Dale Hargrave runs the “clean and green committee” which mows lots; invite him to next meeting to discuss options.

**Action Items:**

- Invite crews of people to adopt available lots to create specialized lots; reach out to City Arts residents as potential volunteers.
- Tree keepers: Find out tree keeper class schedule & invite GW volunteers to enroll in program.
- Collaborate with Tool Library (SNTL)
  - Build Raised Beds for 1718 lot and potentially other lots in community workshop.
  - Build prototype of steel tree well border in workshop.
  - Kid workshop for more creative trash cans

**Green Space Committee Meeting Schedule:**

- Second Monday of the month at 7:00 pm.
- Next meeting: September 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Location: Station North Tool Library