First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta

Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting

12:30 p.m., Sunday, September 15, 2024

In person RE/Office Building - Parlor, with Zoom option available

In attendance: in person - George Banziger, Jim Grecni, Dawn Hewitt, Vic Elam, Kelcey Jacobs, Mike and Adeline Bailey, Lela Erb, and Debra Miller; on Zoom - Ginnie McNeil(Ginnie attempted to sign on, but there were problems with the Zoom link) .

Co-chair **Dawn Hewitt** called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m.

**Minutes** of the September meeting were approved with minor edits regarding dates.

**Solar Bench Update**

**Dawn Hewitt** reported that, after Rebecca Phillips’ discussions with Marietta Safety Services director Steve Wetz and Development director Geoff Schenkel, the city ok’d moving the solar charging bench from the current site to county property. Next steps are discussing plans with Jay and Annie Warmke. **Jay Warmke** has agreed to repair the charging functions of the bench when it is moved. **Annie and Jay Warmke** have been in discussion with the Washington County Library about moving it to the genealogical society building grounds at Fifth and Washington Streets, where a garden is planned. As suggested by **Ginnie McNeil** at an earlier GSC meeting, GSC (Dawn Hewitt) has reviewed the grant proposal specifications for any mention of ownership responsibilities and looked into what agreements or requirements are necessary with both the library system and Washington County officials. ***Action item:*** Dawn will get more info from Annie regarding the move.Move forward on a memorandum of understanding and any other written agreements necessary.

**November Calendar Display**

***Action item*:** Dawn volunteered to create the November calendar for placement by October 1. (Later, Ginnie volunteered to do it.)

**Solar Charging Bench and Pollinator Habitat Updates - (Rebecca Phillips submitted report)**

In addition to the Solar Bench update, Rebecca reported that the pollinator habitat has been rolled into a Marietta Main Street project, with a new committee coordinator for maintenance and development. Since she is relocating to the Toledo area, she said it would be ideal to have another GSC member representative on the committee.

Additionally, Rebecca requested that GSC transfer all or part of the remaining funds ($867.63) in the DuPont CITF grant to Marietta Main Street to serve as part of the local match for grant applications (realizing that monies will be needed to relocate the solar bench as well).

***Motion:*** Dawn moved that the $867.63 first be applied to any costs involved in moving and repairing the solar bench, then apply any funds left to the Marietta Main Street fund supporting the Fort Street pollinator habitat. The motion was seconded by **George Banziger.**

***Discussion:*** George Banziger suggested that funding to hire a part-time coordinator might be available through an Appalachian Ohio.org community grant program (application period opens October 1). Adeline Bailey suggested the Climate Justice Revival “special collection” option was still open and perhaps could be applied to the solar bench project. Neither of the suggestions was given as amendment to the **motion, which passed unanimously.**

***Action item:*** Dawn will inform Rebecca.

**George Banziger’s Community Involvement Reports**

**Brine Waste Concerns** - George discussed the brine waste being transported through the Marietta area in trucks that are not marked as carrying radioactive materials. He said usually the drivers and handlers are not wearing protective gear, and many have no idea they are being exposed to hazardous waste. Local expert Dr. Randi Pokladnik has suggested a project: handing such truckers stopped at a red light an information sheet warning them of the dangers they face. George explained that the Haliburton loophole allows the fracking industry to claim proprietary protection of the fluids used in fracking, thus not identifying radioactive content in the brine waste.

George’s full report was submitted after the meeting; it is attached at the end of these minutes.

**Walk for the Wild - Mark Krivchenia**

In Mark’s absence, Dawn reminded the committee aboutthe **Walk for the Wild fundraiser event** scheduled for 1 p.m. Sunday, October 13. Sponsored by Friends of the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, the 5K walk and run, to be held in St. Marys, will promote and support the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge. Registration is underway online, but will also be accepted the day of the event starting at noon.

**UU Climate Justice Revival - Adeline Bailey**

Adeline said plans for the Revival are well underway. The schedule for Saturday and Sunday sessions have been sent to fuusm-l, including a registration form, and about 32 people are registered for some or all of the sessions and lunch. Dawn Hewitt has made copies and located and organized materials needed for all the dialogs and sessions. Facilitator volunteers Debra Miller, Jim Grecni, Vic Elam, Dawn Hewitt, Rev. Kat Hawbaker, Jane Tumas-Serna, Kelcey Jacobs, Mike Bailey and Adeline are deciding on the dialog sessions they choose to lead, and final decisions will be established in a zoom meeting on Tuesday, September 24th at 7 p.m. Dawn will send a link to participants. Debra will organize the lunch, and ask for contributions of food items as necessary. Jim will act as time-keeper. Mike will handle screening the videos. Kelcey will work with Lela Erb to coordinate curricula activities for any children/youth who may attend. (None registered at this time.) We will be using the videos to introduce each session, freeing the facilitators to lead the activities. Jane will facilitate the Organizing Hour on Sunday after the service. In addition to facilitating a dialog session on Saturday, Rev. Kat plans to lead the hybrid worship service on Sunday. Vic Elam, Jim Grecni, Debra Miller, and Dawn Hewitt agreed to lead the “Prayers for People and the Planet” in the service. The choir will sing the commissioned anthem, and Martha McGovern will lead the chalice lighting and introduce the Time for All Ages story. The story and the reflection included in the CJR material will be presented on video.

***Action item:*** Adeline will apply for a mini-grant from the UUCJR organizers, to help cover childcare staff paid hours worked, and purchase of the software needed to effectively present the videos.

**Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action - Adeline Bailey**

MOVCA will join a Buckeye Environmental Network zoom webinar “Halt the Hydrogen Hoax” on September 18 at 7 p.m.

The group plans to participate in Volcano Days event in Mountwood Park on September 27-29.

A “get acquainted” potluck picnic is planned for October 19th 11 a.m.– 4 p.m., at a pavilion in Parkersburg City Park. More information on this as it becomes available, but all are invited.

**Other announcements**

**Sugar Butte Farm** invites GSC and others to an October 5 potluck followed by a screening of ***Common Ground*** on October 5 at the farm. (Sugar Butte farmers Eric and Kayla Gibson and their farm manager were supporters of the GSC screening.) Dawn will forward the announcement via email.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15pm**.**

Respectfully submitted,

Adeline Bailey, scribe

Next GSC meeting: **Sunday, October 20, 2024,** 12:30 p.m. in the FUUSM RE/Office building and on Zoom.

**--- Addenda ---**

**Fort Street Pollinator Habitat Report September 2024 - Rebecca Phillips**

On September 3, I met with Marietta Main Street director Jen Tinkler and city development director Geoff Schenkel to discuss the future of the habitat and the other two Harmar pollinator sites. We are in agreement that the site needs to be redesigned to simplify maintenance as there are not sufficient volunteers to control the large native species that have overtaken many of the shorter plants in the original design.

The basic design is likely to be something like this:

• the steepest part of the slope will be given over to the large species already there;

• shorter plants will be located at the top and bottom of the slope;

• if funding can be obtained, there will be a second paved path/terrace between the shrub border and the main habitat;

• edging will be installed around the memorial garden to minimize bermuda grass intrusion from the habitat and the city-maintained grassy area along Fort Street.

To begin the redesign process, volunteers will be removing excess vegetation and digging out plants to be relocated on October 12. The Noon Lions will be sending workers on this date, but more volunteers would be helpful. Volunteers are needed to overwinter smaller plants.

Jen Tinkler raised the possibility that starting over with a reasonably blank slate might be necessary, given the overgrowth that has taken place this year. We agreed to mark plants to be left in place or rescued with hazard ribbon and announce that interested gardeners or landscape restorers may dig out other plants for their own use. Those to be left in place will include the shrubs, Cody Henderhan's donated plants, the Girl Scouts' apple tree, donations to the memorial garden, and currently thriving natives in appropriate locations. I will be marking the plants sometime in the next week or two. Main Street is exploring the possibility of grant funding to improve the space.

A new coordinating committee needs to be formed due to life changes on the the parts of the original members. Dylan Holdren has agreed to chair the committee overseeing the Fort Street site but would appreciate a co-chair. I have put out a call to the Master Naturalists and will be meeting with the Master Gardeners on September 10 seeking stewardship committee members for both the pollinator habitat and the Harmar Bridge Butterfly Garden. And of course, Green Sanctuary representation on the committee would be welcome.

Approval Needed

The CITF fund currently holds $867.63. At last week's meeting, Jen, Geoff, and I discussed the possibility of creating a pollinator habitat fund under Marietta Main Street. I am requesting that some or all of the CITF fund be transferred to Main Street to serve as part of the local match for grant applications (realizing that monies will be needed to relocate the solar bench as well). The rationale for the request is that if there are no Green Sanctuary members on the habitat coordinating committee, the habitat has become more a Main Street project than a GS one.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Phillips

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**Reports for Green Sanctuary Meeting of September 15, 2024**

**George Banziger**

Save Ohio Parks

 No recent news

 Next meeting – September 20 at noon via Zoom

 Watch for “nominations” for fracking sites coming out of Oil & Gas Land Management Commission and please respond with comments.

Citizens Climate Lobby

Trying to set up a candidates’ forum involving the two candidates for OH 06 congressional seat. Due to lack of response from Rulli, the event is now a town hall with Kripchak on September 23 (in-person & via Zoom).



 Similar event in Marietta?

ReImagine Appalachia

 -Upcoming webinars:

 September 26, 3 p.m. – Grow it in Appalachia

 October 10, 3 p.m. – Alternatives to single-use plastics

 October 16, 3 p.m. – Repurposing shuttered coal plants

 October 24, 3 p.m. – Creating green building supply chains

Injection Wells

 I just finished reading Justin Nobel’s book, *Petroleum 238.* He makes the strong case for there being high levels of radiation (radium 226 and 228) in fracking waste. Drivers of “brine trucks” and others who deal with fracking waste in this region have no protective gear against radioactivity. Trucks carrying brine waste are not marked as containing hazardous/radioactive material. Fracking waste can leach into aquifers.

 Is this something to raise as a “challenging reality” in our Climate Justice Revival sessions?

Pollinator Plot on Fort Street

I saw this grant opportunity. We might apply under the category, Community Grant, and use these funds to hire a part-time coordinator of the project:

<https://appalachianohio.org/grow/pillarsofprosperity/environmentalstewardship-2/>

 We can apply in Q4 (October 1- December 1) with a decision date of December 30.

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