

Town of Brentwood
Sustainable Brentwood Green Team Tree Committee Meeting
August 9, 2025
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Committee liaison Councilmember Juan Arango Millan, Sara C, Estevan G, Sarah W, Edith L E, Sasha G, CiCi S, Liz M, Dory E, Jess E M, & a couple of younger residents
Facilitator and note-taker: Lauren R

KEY:

Action Items in bold

** Sustainable Maryland requirements (2) or priority actions (4/8)

+ Sustainable Maryland actions (400 pts)

1. Introductions of all attending. Welcome to Councilmember Arango Millan.
2. Minutes from the last meeting were approved via email - not available in person.
3. 2025-2028 priorities: Committee provided status updates on interests and priorities.

+ Organic Waste Compost Campaign

Leads: Scott and Aliza; team members: Sara C, Jess, Dory, Councilmember Arango Millan

- o Discussed opportunities to help Brentwood adopt an Organic/Food Waste Compost Campaign.
- o **Next steps:** Set up a meeting for the team. Request a meeting with Town Administrator Shelley Dorsey-Washington. Research options: Hyattsville with drop-off locations; put food waste into yard waste with JAMM garbage services takes to PGC; ask PGC if we can be a pilot municipality; Takoma Park has experience to share (CM Arango Millan, Dory). Research education and outreach campaign - how to educate residents to make it successful.

**Community Garden at Public Works yard

Leads: Lauren, Town Administrator Shelley Dorsey-Washington; team members: Edith, Estevan, CiCi, Sasha, Councilmember Arango Millan

- o Update: Town Administrator is very supportive of the garden. Lauren attended Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) open office hours to pitch the project to the Outreach & Restoration grant administrator. They are favorable and suggested connecting with Neighborhood Design Center on the application. Lauren started draft application.
- o **Next steps:** Lauren will send draft grant application for Chesapeake Bay Trust Outreach and Restoration to Edith, Estevan, CiCi, Sasha, CM Arango Millan to review and provide input before it goes to Town Administrator and Neighborhood Design Center for submission to CBT by 8/21.

- Discussion about the right partner organizations on the grant. Neighborhood Design Center is the design partner that will support the design efforts of the Community Garden group - which outreach organization can lead the planning and execution to reach residents and families in apartment buildings? CASA, ecoLatinos, Alliance, Defensores.
- CM Arango Millan and Town Administrator will propose the grant application to council for official confirmation of support and to publicly announce at the 8/19 meeting.
- Community Garden will be located at PW yard and is proposed to house up to 25 plots of 8x4 feet, a small tree nursery, water capture infrastructure, compost and mulch pile. Multiple info sources exist for how to organize and manage a community garden:
 - Municipal contacts for garden tours with grant funding: Colmar Manor, Cottage City, Hyattsville, Mt Rainier

+/** Native Plant Network - Part of Stormwater Management Program is a Sustainable Maryland Priority Action

Leads: Emily, Scott, Liz, Jane ; team members: Sara C (for weeding/manual labor)

- Update: Thanks to ecoLatino there are two new rain gardens at the back entrance of the community center.
- **Next steps:** Project park design will be delivered via the Climate Smart Communities Initiative partners UMD EFC and Nature Forward.
- Save the date: September 27 native plant swap at Community Center

Climate Action Plan - ****Municipal Carbon Footprint and **Create a Watershed Plan are Sustainable Maryland Priority Actions**

- Update: The draft CAP was presented to the council and comments were shared with Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (leads for the plan via the Planning Assistance to Municipalities and Communities) and RHI (consultants crafting the Plan).
https://youtu.be/R_EOZUEFq5E?si=yM9kSBgHg2tfGnTP
- **Next steps:** Feedback is synthesized into the final draft by MNCPPC and RHI. MNCPPC will create the final publication. Target timeframe is likely October.
- Discussion: Recommendations that the Town hire a person to manage and implement the directives, conduct the education and outreach to constituencies. Sustainable Brentwood Committee is interested in delivering some of the education and outreach support - energy info session for residents to learn about what is available for their needs.

Bartlett Park redesign – ****Part of Stormwater Management Program**

Leads: Lauren, Town Administrator Shelley Dorsey-Washington; team members: Jess, Scott, Aliza

- No update provided.

- **Next steps:** We wrapped up the Chesapeake Bay Trust Green Streets, Green Towns, Green Jobs charrette activity facilitated by Warp & Weft consultants and received a suggested design and approach from Bradley Site Design. CBT recommended Brentwood apply for design and construction concurrently via the [Watershed Assistance Grant Program](#) due November 7, 2025, 4pm (Info session on this grant is September 18th, 2025 at 6:00 pm) and [Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns](#) (G3) grant opening in December (Info session TBD). The design phase would include field investigative aspects (make sure to include emphasis on water conservation and safety with the splash pad) and would focus on addressing problems in the park first - then the Town should pursue later on aspects like benches. Town will need three quotes for the design and construction grants.

Tree Committee - Leads: TBD

- Update: Asked Councilmember Arango Millan about introducing the draft tree ordinance. He responded that he's meeting with Vice Mayor Jerry Burgess to review it and discuss.

Sustainable Maryland recertification - Lauren, Town Administrator Shelley Dorsey-Washington

- Update: Started in fall 2024 to identify and collect materials and accomplishments. Submitted application for recertification June 30, 2025. Sustainable Maryland provided Round 1 feedback. Application updated with available information.
- **Next steps:** August - External Review. Sustainable Maryland staff will unlock applications and Municipalities will be able to revise and augment their applications during July and August. September/October - Final Review and Approval. October 12th - 14th - Award Recognition at Fall MML in McHenry, MD.

**Sustainable Brentwood Committee meeting cadence - *Green Team requirements*

- Agreed to hold monthly Sustainable Brentwood Committee meetings on Zoom with agenda items focused on status updates on subcommittee activities, including Brentwood Native Plant Network, Green Team, Tree Committee, Composting Campaign, Community Garden, and other Sustainable Maryland activities.
- Action events would be scheduled on weekends or other times.
- Lauren will continue to help with organizing Committee and will send out a poll to determine best weeknight/time to meet.