Hi all,

Here are notes from last night's meeting:

Let's begin with ***SUCCESSES!!***

The articles in Bexley Living magazine!  Boot Camp! (Thank you, Rebecca for spearheading); Steve and Joanne approaching the schools to discuss food waste composting, and

Elizabeth has made it a goal to give a 5 minute presentation to every single classroom in the Bexley Schools. Kudos to Elizabeth!! This may end up being a segment on the schools' morning news shows.

***New ESAC members***-  Tom Plute, who joined us last night. Welcome, Tom!

***Bexley Living Magazine*** - Carol is working on the March issue article. The April issue will be dedicated to green living. We are currently seeking residents to highlight in this issue - you know of someone who would be a good fit, please tell Elizabeth!

***GreenBexley website*** is getting a lot of hits lately. :) If you have anything you want to put on the site, please email Elizabeth.

***New recycling guidelines:*** we will have an entire page spread in the water bill highlighting the additional items that can now go into the curbside recycling bins.

***Food waste composting update***: the city is currently composting 3.3 tons of food waste a week; 1,479 families are participating;

Elizabeth met with George of Innovative Organics to start the pilot composting at Brassica and Newfangled Kitchen. Both places will just be composting "back of house" waste at this time.

Joanne and Steve set up a meeting with Dr Dan Good and 2 other administrators at Bexley Schools on 2/8. We are putting together details of how composting would look day to day in the school cafeteria and will present this to the admin at a future date, tbd. We are hoping to model the program after the Evening Street Elementary School in Worthington which uses Innovative Organics.

***Boot Camp*** - this is becoming a huge success - a second class was added! Allison from Piccadilly is teaching this session's camp. Topic is Respecting Nature. First class was last weekend; participants created nature's valentines out of sticks, leaves, acorns, etc. The predominant age was pre-K through 2nd grade and the children stayed warm outdoors by "using their own body heat". :) This is a 6 week session, meeting every other week.

***Green Bexley Fair*** - decision was made to wait until the fall.

***Earth Day*** - A couple of ideas were generated: make bingo boards with different sustainable activities such as visiting a metropark for a community-wide bingo game. Another idea is to collaborate with Capital University on an idea - people who want to participate in an online sustainability campaign by doing some kind of daily sustainable activity and then posting about using a "tag" (most likely using the Instagram platform); the more "posts" one submits, the greater the chance of winning a raffle prize. Winners will be announced April 22.

If you have ideas for daily sustainable activities, please send them along to Elizabeth.

***Litter Clean Up*** - next one scheduled for 2/20 at 1:00 at Nelson Park

***Environmental Sustainability Forum - Thank you to Steve for organizing this!! February, 25 at 6:00, virtual. Everyone should have received an invitation today***. If you did not, please let Elizabeth know. This event is co-hosted by MORPC and will highlight other Columbus community Sustainability Committees.

***Love Your Alley***- Looking forward to this in May! The agenda includes cleaning up bulk junk from alleys, adding native plants, and installing artwork to beautify the alleys and turn the alleys into destinations. A long term goal of this project is to make Bexley a biological corridor for all pollinators and installing rain gardens to help with flooding issues. On May 23 there will be an alley parade and a contest judging best alley. The committee is working to secure sponsors and I believe they are planning a speaker each week.

***Dog Waste in Bexley***- "Yes You Can" stickers are being made to place on residents' garbage cans if they are willing to be a designated site for dog waste disposal. Excellent idea and I love the slogan!!

***Schools*** - Midge communicated the information about the 2/20 litter clean up at Nelson Park to the St. Charles students. Hope to see some of the boys there! Capital U is looking for feedback from its students and staff on where best place to have recycling bins on campus; also recording data to create more reports for a waste audit. Bexley - John announced that the Bexley district has purchased a propane bus and commented that the concern at the moment with Electric buses is the distant buses have to go sometimes for sporting events.

***Legislation*** - Mayor Kessler reported the following:

Council passed the ordinance for aggregation. Beginning June 1, Bexley residents will be receiving 100% renewal energy from wind and solar ***UNLESS*** they choose to opt out. For the next 2 years, the city is purchasing wind and solar credits; in 2023 there will be actual physical properties that will generate the city's energy.

***Plastic bag ban*** - good compliance in Bexley. There is grant money for stores who need funds for paper bags. Gramercy Bookstore has applied.

***Universal Recycling*** - on pause for the time being due to current pandemic/economic situation

***DORA*** - Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area, aka "Bexley Patio". An outdoor area where patrons can walk along Main Street from Parkview to Cassingham carrying alcoholic beverages. Bourbon Street :) Economic Development plan. Cups need to be approved (plastic or paper) and must be branded. Elizabeth is researching a reusable "cozy" that could be branded. Also discussed contacting Dispatched Goods to see if they can help with some kind of reusable cup (if it is permitted)

A few more things - Science Fest will be at COSI in early May. Please let Elizabeth know if you are interested in helping out.

***We will again be having a freecycle day and drop-off day sometime in May!!***

That's all. See you in March!