

Hartford Climate Stewardship Initiative

On Wednesday July 26th, Mayor Bronin held his July Town Hall meeting at the nearly full Lyceum in Frog Hollow. The Topic was “A Greener, Cleaner, Healthier Hartford”, and it was intended to introduce the Hartford Climate Stewardship Initiative, the new Office of Sustainability, and the Climate Stewardship Council. Clearly people are interested.

All of this is an effort to

coordinate and enhance the various efforts from the past as well as to add to them.

As the Mayor said, “there are three values that underlie this effort, one is public health, another is economic development, and the third is social equity.” So whether the issue is asthma rates among school children in the North End, positioning Hartford for 21st Century business opportunities, or changing the long standing inequities for Connecticut’s cities, all are connected to these values and can be improved by this initiative.

Not surprisingly, the Office of Sustainability is exclusively externally funded by grants, currently from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Partners for Places, and UConn’s Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation. It’s staffed by Shubhada Kambli, the recently hired Sustainability Coordinator, and Robin Kreisberg the new Green Infrastructure Specialist.

The Mayor goes on to explain “to meet those values are six action areas; energy, landscape, food, transportation waste and water.”

The next 15 minutes were spent giving examples of efforts in each action area, everything from the new 1 megawatt solar array on the landfill, and proposed LED street lights, to the aquaponics in Kenney Park and the possible Next Generation trash to energy plant in the South Meadows, (only if it can’t be located elsewhere).

After that Mayor Bronin took questions for the next hour and 20 minutes. Most, though not all were related to the Sustainability topic of the evening and it was clear that people were very interested in this topic. Mayor Bronin took the opportunity several times to remind everyone of the need for their participation in the effort.

For more info on the initiative, the Council and to contact the new coordinator go to
<https://hartfordclimate.wordpress.com>

