

Green Team Meeting, Dec. 4, 2008

Attendance:

Durfee, Nichols, Boroff, Wonderlin, Hall, Woodruff, Spencer, Reilly, Van Dyke (acting secretary)

Bill Wonderlin called the meeting to order at 4:06 pm.

Item 1: Minutes of the November 6 Green Team meeting were approved without change.

Item 2: City Manager's Report. Dan Boroff discussed 3 issues:

1. Fire Station: Construction slightly ahead of schedule.
2. Performance contract: CLT has begun looking at municipal facilities and collecting information necessary for the investment-grade audit.
3. Gas rights leasing: All negotiations have been suspended with regard to gas drilling rights for city-owned properties. This is due to rapidly falling prices for natural gas.

Item 3: Follow-up on Natural Gas drilling in Morgantown. Not discussed due to suspended negotiations.

Item 4. New Street Lighting in Morgantown

Brief discussion. Dan Boroff stated that street lighting is not often a part performance contracts. Don Spencer reported that Anchorage, Alaska has installed LED street lighting with positive results.

Item 5. Green Vision for Morgantown & Comprehensive Plan (reports from committees requested)

For the Recycling committee, Linda Durfee summarized ideas from email exchanges.

Consider for short term:

- Expand curbside recycling to include materials currently collected only at satellite locations
- Collect curbside weekly instead of every other week

Consider for long term:

- Expand curbside recycling to include plastics 1 through 7, cardboard, colored glass
- Changing trash pick up to "pay as you throw"
- Simplify curbside recycling by requiring no sorting
- Add more satellite recycling stations
- Educate about recycling via website
- Print guidelines for recycling in telephone book
- Implement municipal composting: keep yard waste out of landfill
- Collection points for city composed materials / mulch
- e-cycling events more often than once or twice per year
- For re-usable items, "transfer station"
- Dog waste compost

Don Spencer mentioned that some of the above ideas are under consideration or available e.g. "Pay as you throw" is being considered; WVU farm has compost drop off.

For Green Architecture, Bill Wonderlin summarized recent meeting and subsequent report by Chris Haddox. The Architecture committee suggests the Green Team work with the city's neighborhood associations so they can be better informed regarding green issues and incorporate green standards into their portions of the comprehensive plan. Specifically, the Green Team should:

1. Create framework of questions to view neighborhood concerns through "green lens."

2. On the website, create a checklist that supports 1 above (i.e. FAQ list).
3. Request meetings with neighborhood groups to begin conversion.
4. Use the public access channel as a possible method to educate public

Don Boroff confirmed that the public access channel can be used in this way. Bill Wonderlin pointed to *Kilowatt Hours*, a show recently broadcast by PBS, as content appropriate for 2 and 4 above.

Don Spencer stated that there are about seven neighborhood groups. The Neighborhood Coordinating Council (NCC) is chaired by the assistant city manager, Jeff Mikorski.

Linda Durfee suggested a follow up meeting with neighborhood groups after an initial contact would be useful. Will Reilly recommended getting the Green Team website function prior to approaching neighborhood associations.

Bill Wonderlin stated that we need to identify “products” that need to be developed. These include

1. List of questions
2. Up to date website
3. Develop contacts with NCC
4. Use of public access channel
5. Short, splashy presentation for neighborhood associations

Actions:

1. Standing committees to work on questions for neighborhood associations
Wonderlin, Spencer (others interested) to meet regarding comprehensive plan strategy
2. Chris Van Dyke contacts Chris Haddox to expedite website going online if possible
{Website is currently online at: www.morgantowngreenteam.org/}

Item 6. Reports from the four standing committees: Discussed under item 5 above.

Item 7. New Business

Green marbles – a WVU group (student group “Business English” ?) recently promoted recycling with recycled glass marbles. They handed out literature, developed advertising.

Formation of transportation committee – How to move forward

Don Spencer stated that MPO “urban center” allows us to have a body to consider transportation. MPO has currently has very limited resources due to failure of proposed “service fee” and is additionally challenged with recent loss of director.

John Hall suggested that we assess our current needs as a starting point. He believes that the following need to be addressed: energy efficiency of city vehicles, planning traffic flow for efficiency, mass transit, bicycling/walking, alternative fuels, promoting car pooling/”zip” car, study effects of near- and long-term population growth on transportation.

Don Spencer suggested looking at “STAR community index” to get a handle on municipal sustainability (URL: www.iclei-usa.org/programs/sustainability/star-community-index)

Actions: Bill Wonderlin will begin email discussion regarding formation of this committee.

Steve Woodruff requested that the URL for the website www.uppermon.org be included in the minutes. The site contains links and content about Monongalia River monitoring and other related information.

Next meeting will be held on January 8, 2009 at 4 PM. Location to be announced.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm.