

Green Team Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2008

Bill Wonderlin called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

Item 1: The Minutes of the January 3 meeting were amended to include Duane Nichols as a member of the Recycling Committee. Minutes were approved as amended.

Item 2: Scope of the Green Team Activities

There was discussion of just how the Green Team (GT) should operate and what the scope of its activities should be.

a. The Team is advisory to the City Council and will act on requests from them. This should lead to a tangible outcome.

b. The various elements of the GT can recommend to Council or discuss issues with Council.

c. It was decided to form a Scoping Committee to report back to the GT on this issue. Members: Haddox, Nichols, Hall, Spencer and Wonderlin

Dan Boroff stated that the GT can provide ideas to the Council and the Council can provide needed resources to accomplish the desired outcome.

It was pointed out that Roger Dotson has dropped from the GT due to lack of available time.

Item 3: Membership Issues

We discussed how new members should be added to the GT and should these memberships be rotating? Ad Hoc memberships were also mentioned. After discussion it was decided to invite Sandy Cress and Autumn Bliss to the next meeting as they will bring considerable expertise on green issues to the GT. Others may be invited to meetings as needed or to assist the Committees.

Item 4: Communication of GT

Chris Van Dyke suggested that the use of Google Groups would be ideal for this group. We could post and do emails using this tool, and Chris agreed to set this up and manage the site for us.

Item 5: Energy Committee

Jim Kotcon pointed out that the report on energy use by the City, carried out by Johnson Controls, came out January 28. Three main issues were

1. Areas that can be addressed immediately (e.g., changing light bulbs
2. Longer range issues for energy conservation
3. Issues requiring a "Green Consultant" in the form of businesses, such as energy usage in City buildings.

We discussed whether the City currently has contracts with "Green Companies" and how many green vehicles are currently being used. Dan Boroff said we could see the City utility bills so that the Committee can begin to get a understanding of current usage. KWH and cost data are needed and the vehicle types and MPG.

Next meeting is Feb. 25.

Item 5: Green Architecture Committee

Details are on Paul Browns report (attached)

Discussion: It was decided that it would be useful to invite the City Engineer to GT meetings.

Chris Haddox mentioned the Dark Skies Initiative and the desirability of lowering light pollution in the City. Not only can energy be saved, but we might see the stars again. Chris again directed our attention to the City of Portland website, with a great deal of green information.

We discussed the idea of getting a GT link to the City website, an idea with which Boroff said the City could help.

Don Spencer felt that we needed to focus attention on electric bill savings.

Item 6: Fire House

Chris Haddox met with the Fire Chief and City Architect and the following issues were mentioned:

1. Radiant heating in floor is needed now
2. The need for energy conservation was discussed
3. The 11 issues raised by the GT were discussed. They will report back to us on how these suggestions will be dealt with.
5. They discussed the merits of various types and designs of heat pumps
6. Expressed an overall agreement in support of green energy concepts

Item 7: Recycling Committee

This group has not gotten underway as yet and we discussed the fact that there is a Solid Waste Authority (meets 2nd Friday each month) and Solid Waste Board which meets on the 4th Thursday each month. The Committee needs to decide what their niche might be in light of these other groups. The addition of Sandy Cress may help bring some focus to this group.

Recycling is on the increase as our landfills are beginning to fill up. The cost of establishing a new landfill is close to 50 million dollars, making recycling efforts even more valuable. The Solid Waste Authority is considering a Pay as you Throw policy which will emphasize recycling.

Item 8: City Manager

Dan Boroff stated that Council is quite happy with the outcomes of the GT thus far, particularly the energy savings in the proposed Fire Hall.

Item 9: New Business

Don Spencer discussed the following issues:

1. Limits on idling of busses and other diesel fueled vehicles
2. The use of biodiesel fuel from MUB
3. Al Stiller is an expert on biodiesel fuel and suggests that nearly 10⁶ gal/year might come from waste treatment sources.

Next Meeting: March 6 at 4-6 pm in the Public Safety Building (corner of Walnut and Spruce)

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm.