

## **Green Team Meeting April 3, 2008**

Attendance: Wonderlin, W. Reilly, Boroff, Brown, Hall, Askins, Spencer, Harris, Kirby

Bill Wonderlin called the meeting to order at 4:09 PM

**Item 1:** Meetings of March minutes were approved by consensus

**Item 2:** Report of City Manager

Dan Boroff mentioned 4 items:

- a. the activities of the Green Team are being noticed by state agencies (DNR), on public radio and by other cities in WV.
- b. He mentioned the presentation by Chris Haddox on LEEDS that he presented to City staff members, and that it was well received.
- c. The RFP for the environmental contract is being worked on
- d. Fire Station bids are due to be let on April 8 or 9.

**Item 3:** Procedural guidelines for Green Team (approval postponed for lack of quorum)

**Item 4:** Transportation Committee

Committee members were solicited: Harris, Wonderlin, Askins, Spencer and Brown. We discussed possible outside members for this work, including Greg Good, Ron Eck and Kevin Layden. The recent "Most Walkable City" designation was discussed and this was related to the number of sidewalks. In Morgantown, 16% of people walk to work or school, which was the highest in the State. Boroff discussed the City work on the Comprehensive Sidewalk system, which needs funds to further increase the walkability of the city.

**Item 5:** Committee Reports

Green Architecture: Paul Brown discussed the decision to join the USGBC, which will help keeping up with LEEDS. The Committee worked on

the Building Permit Application idea of a questionnaire for developers, and will consult with the City Engineer in this regard.

We discussed the need for lifestyle changes that promote “greenness”:

- a. Zoning to allow mixed use neighborhoods
- b. Potential changes in rental units (occupants/building)
- c. Development of public gardens
- d. Development of pocket parks
- e. Transport issues (traffic patterns, gridlock, handicap access, bike lanes, use of motor scooters, idling issues, synchronization of traffic patterns, jitneys to transport people, and electric rental vehicles)

Discussion of the mixed use concept followed. How can Morgantown grow smoothly? Is Smart Growth a possibility? Boroff mentioned that we are growing at a rate of 1% per year within the boundary of the City. Askins mentioned getting input from DEP’s Greg Adolfson, who works with Green City Development issues.

Sarah Bips of MorGreenTown presented the idea for community garden projects in town. They are focusing on Jack Roberts Park, and it was suggested by the Green Team that she contact the local association that helped to develop the park. Dan Boroff will put her in contact with them. Sarah asked for Green Team support. Several issues came up: other open lots in town might be used, roof-top gardens, deer problems in gardens and potential solutions. The Green Team gave approval to the concept of developing community gardens and will develop a letter of support to be used with grant applications.

Recycling: Harris discussed the first electronic meeting of the Committee, in which recycling issues were discussed. Linda Durfee had sent a list early on in the Green Team experience, which formed the basis of most of the following discussion (see attached report)

1. Recyclable pickups: Compared to many other cities our trash collectors pick up of recyclables is limited. Some communities have a "single stream" recycling plan where a large container is picked up and can contain all glass, paper and plastics (some exceptions), to be sorted later. Spencer and Boroff both discussed this pointing out that this is expensive and not done at many nearby cities. Pittsburg has one and

there is a plan to visit it soon and the Green Team could be invited. The goal is to increase recycling and reduce the trash bin sizes which go to our landfill was discussed. Several at the meeting expressed confusion about what BFS picks up, and thought every other week might be increased to once per week. It was pointed out that BFS delivers the recyclables to the Solid Waste Authority, who then sells the materials. Aluminum and cardboard are the profitable items and their sale funds the rest of the recycling program. If we get a bottle bill, with deposits, this would have an impact on the rest of the recycling programs.

2. eRecycling: Computers, old TVs and other electronics represent a growing waste stream. There is a pickup this coming Saturday.

3. Web Site: Our City website has a recycling page, but it could be more informative and complete. Linda suggested taking a look at <http://www.naparecycling.com>, and it a good one, with many ideas. The Solid Waste Authority also has a website which has some valuable information but could be improved, and maybe part of our role would be to participate in their meetings, as suggested by Bill and Sandy.

4. University Recycling: WVU is increasing its efforts in recycling, but as the Faculty Support for the HSC Student recycling program I know that the HSC is still not recycling paper and other items. The medical students got a grant to purchase bins and actually take the bins to the recycling center to sort. Its community service for them, and is laudable, but why is the HSC and its administration unwilling to do it?

Energy Committee: Kotcon and the Committee met with the City Engineers and discussed the Johnson Controls plans. Items discussed were incentives for alternative energy, such as biodiesel usage. Pat Kirby discussed the Cambridge Energy Alliance and suggested that the City join this group (\$500 fee). Boroff would take that suggestion to Council. We also discussed the idea of Green Collar jobs and industries.

New Business: Wonderlin pointed out the need to register and use the Google site.

We decided to invite Barbara Fleischaurer to visit us in June, to update us on legislative issues and to learn more about the effort of the Green Team.

Next meeting is May 1 at 4 pm.

Adjourned at 5:55