

Green Team Meeting, August 7, 2008

Attendance: Boroff, Hansen, Hall, Woodruff (acting chair), Reilly, Askins, Haddox, Spencer, Kotcon, Van Dyke (acting secretary)

Woodruff called the meeting to order at 4:07 pm.

Item 1: Minutes of the July 10 Green Team meeting were approved without change.

Item 2: City Manager's Report

Dan Boroff discussed 4 issues:

1. Fire Station: City council approved \$3.2 million construction contract for new fire station; construction will hopefully begin late this fall. Funds for commissioning were approved. Favorable financing terms (4.1% over 20 year term, no debt service reserve, prepayment without penalty) allowed the restoration of the in-floor radiant heating. Terms may also allow retirement of debt in as little as 16 years.
2. Performance Contract: The energy audit contract's estimated value will be \$70,000 -80,000 and will consist of cost estimates, budget and projected cost savings. The performance contract will proceed in 3 phases. The first phase is estimated to be a contact for approximately \$2 million and will address energy usage at the airport, city hall and traffic lights.
3. Replacement of street lights: Allegheny Power (AP) proposal to replace street lights should be considered quickly; delay may mean the City light replacements could be "wait listed" possibly preventing maintenance to existing mercury vapor (MV) lights. The police chief has approved the use of the high pressure sodium lights for neighborhoods; metal halide lights will continued to be used downtown. Will Reilly inquired as to the disposal plan for the mercury vapor lights. Boroff replied that this would be AP's responsibility.
4. Gas rights leasing: The City has been contacted by several parties interested in leasing gas drilling rights for larger city-owned tracts of land (eg the airport). Dan stated that such contracts are quite complex and that legal council is being consulted.

Item 3: New street lighting.

Chris Van Dyke contacted Jim Bowman, an account manager at Allegheny Power (AP). Light fixtures are currently leased from AP who is responsible for installation and maintenance. Electricity usage is unmetered and billed at a fixed rate. Approximately 80% of the MV lights to be replaced are pole-mounted streetlights. Under these terms, AP offers two fixtures that are suitable for this service: "open luminaire" (no light cut off) and "cobra head" (some light cutoff). Under other terms, AP offers other fixtures, but these will probably be more expensive and may have significant up front costs. Van Dyke suggested looking into other fixtures and, if none are suitable, using the slightly more expensive "cobra head."

Boroff suggested looking into public acceptance of "cobra head" in residential areas.

Chris Haddox stressed the value of increased lighting quality and suggested delaying decision. Haddox also suggested looking into the possibility of replacing the globe of the "open luminaire" to improve light directionality.

Item 4: Green Vision for Morgantown.

Don Spencer stated that Morgantown's comprehensive plan is due July 2009 and a "Green Vision" should be included. The relationship between the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, the Kyoto Protocols and a Green Vision statement was discussed. The collection of methane gas was considered as part of an overall strategy of lowering the city's carbon footprint; two potential sources are the sewage treatment plant and the closed landfill at the airport.

Steven Woodruff suggested that each standing committee draft a "chapter" for the Green Vision that represents their area of expertise and that, once received, an ad hoc committee be formed to create the Green Team's green vision.

Spencer will invite the bicycling committee, pedestrian committee, solid waste committee, and the tree board to make contributions as well. The green team

Item 5: Proposed Green Team membership attendance policy.

This item was not discussed due to the lack of a quorum.

Item 6: Update on Green Team Website

Chris Haddox reported that the domain "morgantowngreenteam.com" has been purchased and that he has begun sending material to Chris Green. Details on where website data will be hosted have not yet been resolved. Haddox recommended Green Team members consider recommending material or resources that could be added to the website.

Item 7: Reports from Standing Committees

Energy: James Kotcon reported on the energy committee held on July 29. Topics discussed included:

1. The fire station and its LEED status
2. The job description of the intern - this is expected to be ready soon.
3. Hydro power on the Monongehla River - the committee hopes to invite the lease holder.
4. Replacement of street lights - the committee resolved that:
 - a. The city consider the use of LED lighting as an alternative
 - b. Verify the safe disposal of the old MV fixtures
 - c. Consider the safety aspect of the spectrum of high pressure sodium lights

The other committees did not make a report

Item 8: New Business

Nathan Askins offered the assistance of the Sierra Student Coalition.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm