

Green Team Meeting, Feb. 7, 2009

Attendance:

Will Reilly, Sandy Cress, Chris Haddox, John Hall, Steve Woodruff, Nate Askins, Evan Hansen, Don Spencer, Bill Wonderlin (Chair), Sheila Westfall, Jim Kotcon, Chris Van Dyke (acting secretary)

Meeting began at approximately 4:10. Don Spencer outlined the resolution on regulating gas drilling to protect the Monongahela River. The resolution was passed at the Feb. 3 City Council meeting.

Item 1. Minutes of the January 8 Green Team meeting were approved without change.

Item 2. City Manager's Report. Dan Boroff was unable to attend due to a schedule conflict.

Item 3. Green Construction Workshop

Bill Wonderlin reported on the second meeting concerning the workshop

1. A primary target of workshop should be developers, but we would also like to attract representatives from among bankers, appraisers, home builders association, and realtors.
2. Major component should be green building/LEED.
3. Ken Busz, Morgantown chamber of commerce president, felt strongly that in order to appeal to the business community, the workshop must be held in a nice place, have a registration fee, and occur during business hours.
4. Workshop should be held before the end of the WVU's spring term – prior to week of May 18th.
5. The first extended meeting will be held on Feb. 13.
6. Bill suggested that could there could be activities during the day for developers and in the evening for the general public.

Nate thought that May could be too late for workshop.

Chris Haddox suggested showing how to employ current building materials for greener building. Will suggested a session for retrofitting to make buildings greener. Chris agreed with this idea. Chris has some tools that could be brought as learning objects to help demonstrate impact and understanding of energy usage in buildings. Jim Kotcon suggested giving home owners a variety of options, including consultants, utility, and on-line tools. Sandy Cress suggested adding some do-it-yourself information.

Bill asked for ideas for the workshop venue and offered the possibilities of the Waterfront or Mylan Park event center. Nate suggested the Mountainlair ballroom and noted that the Lair also has small meeting rooms available. Bill pointed out that both Ken Busz and Don though developers would prefer something along the line of the Waterfront, but would discuss venue options in the Feb. 13th meeting.

Which people to invite to the workshop was discussed. Steve thought some subgroups needed to be represented, especially appraisers and architects. Chris Haddox suggested approaching a couple of businesses with employees who deal with green. Jim suggested inviting local alternative energy groups. Sandy will be attending the West Virginia Go Green conference and will look for contacts.

Nate introduced information he collected and emailed to the Green Team regarding green construction workshops by "Efficiency Vermont." Also included were additional web links in a Word document.

Bill suggested that finding a developer who has been successful in green construction would sell the economics of green construction to other developers. Chris may have some leads.

ACTION: Meeting to occur Feb. 13. Chris Haddox will attempt to recruit a realtor to attend the Feb. 13 meeting.

Item 4. Comprehensive Plan

Sheila Westfall, the recently selected intern, introduced herself to the Green Team. Jim Kotcon will be her faculty mentor. Sheila has met with the city planner and is in the process of determining what is needed. Jim stated that the STAR community index may be a possibility and suggested the new comprehensive plan should be focused more on transportation. Bill suggested that the STAR index is not complete yet although the major points of emphasis are clear.

Sheila asked the Green Team to describe what they would like her to do. Bill suggested a proposal that could become a portion of the comprehensive plan. Chris suggested creating materials that would be for neighborhood groups. Jim suggested reviewing the current comprehensive plan, locating gaps, and considering models as a method to identify “low hanging fruit.” Nate` suggested adding brownfield development. Jim provided a timeline. In March, discuss range of options with working documents. In April, have a document to respond to.

Item 5. Update on Green Team website - no new developments.

Item 6. Reports from the four standing committees - committees did not meet during January.

Item 7. New Business

Sandy Cress briefly discussed the benefits of cloth diapers as compared to disposable diapers. Primary benefits of cloth over disposable are decreased amount of material land filled, less overall energy usage, less toxic chemical production. Sandy noted that to maximize the benefits of cloth diapers, careful attention must be paid to laundering and drying methods.

Next Meeting at March 5, 2009 at 4 PM. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.