

Green Team Minutes

June 4, 2009

Attendance: Will Reilly, Chris Haddox, Sheila Westfall, Jim Kotcon, Bill Wonderlin, Brent Bailey, Dan Boroff, John Hall, Linda Durfee, Trevor Lloyd, Evan Hansen, Pat Kirby, Larry Harris

Bill Wonderlin called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm.

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

Item 2. City Manager's Report.

Dan Boroff reported that the new fire station is complete, save for a few items, and is scheduled for occupancy in July. He reported that our conservation efforts have been noticed statewide, with many cities taking interest. He also hoped that many GT members can attend the dedication ceremonies.

The City approved the Energy Performance Based Audit. To move forward a line of credit must be established and that may require the passing of an ordinance by Council. June 16 is the execution date.

Phase 1 involves putting new bulbs in traffic lights, followed by Phase 2 replacement of all street lamps, as previously discussed. The power company still is uncooperative on the switch to inductive lamps. Phase 3 will involve the sewage and water treatment plants and all other city buildings.

Jim Kotcon has been working with Joe Houdak, an official of the Energy Audit Group. He mentioned the goal of saving 25% on the electric bill. We discussed whether the GT would like their PR person (Kelly) to attend our meeting to discuss community outreach and education questions.

Will Reilly asked if we will be developing a database during the audit process and who would be able to view it. Dan replied that a baseline of energy usage by the City is necessary and, when available, would be owned by the City. The importance of having this database to monitor the progress of the energy usage was discussed.

The approach used with the municipal fleet is to replace vehicles one by one as needed. High mileage replacement vehicles will be purchased. One issue is police cars which need to have extensive electronic capabilities. How to monitor improvements in fleet energy use? Right now we know total gallons used but we need mpg per vehicle and total miles

driven to really assess our progress.

We discussed how increased bus rider ship would increase fuel consumption, but would have the benefit of decreasing the number of cars on the road. Other issues discussed which relate to energy usage were: potential increases in population, increased number of public employees, more miles driven per city vehicle, etc.

ACTION: Bill Wonderlin asked the Energy Committee to take up the question of what needs to be measured to comply with the energy audit plan. The group will meet on June 15 at 4:15 pm.

Dan also announced that he generally would stay with a committee until it is mature, and functioning well. He feels the GT is at that point and Trevor will now regularly attend. He will attend anytime he is asked to do so.

Item 3: The MUB Rate Hike Plan was discussed. There was some concern on the GT that the development of increased capacity by the water plant might lead to supply for outlying suburbs of Morgantown. This is simply sprawl and should be avoided. Dan pointed out that MUB is required by law to serve anyone who asks for water service.

Item 4. Comprehensive Plan

Sheila discussed her work with the plan and identifying the following items:

- a. Greenways
- b. Maps of paper streets
- c. Lack of green space downtown
- d. Building parks on open lots

Much discussion of these issues followed that centered on ideas and ways to provide incentives for public and private green space development. Larry Harris mentioned a paper street/greenways project organized by Cindy O'Brien the week of Earth Day. A section of Park Street above Jackson was the project area. The trail was permanently blocked to traffic by the City, who also donated four truckloads of wood chips for the trail. With the help of SPAN members, neighbors, and people using this path, we improved the trail and dug ditches to allow water runoff. Such projects might be approached in other areas of the city to increase greenways. Linda later suggested that this project should be written up and placed on our website.

ACTION ITEM: Set up an Ad Hoc Comprehensive Plan meeting for next week.

Item 5. Website Update:

Chris Van Dyke is still looking for suggestions and materials for the site. More links and relevant information is needed.

Item 6: Library and GT Events

Chris Haddox met to plan a Green Night at the Library Event. Asked if a list of Green books will be available Chris said this is being developed.

Bill Wonderlin mentioned that the GT will have a booth at the Farmers Market on June 20, a potentially positive place to educate the public and generate new members.

Chris Haddox mentioned that some other cities have a "Green Drinks" event, at which folks gather at a public spot to discuss Green issues.

Brent Bailey discussed the idea of a newspaper presence for the green team. A regular column was discussed, but it was felt that that would be onerous. Brent suggested that we might identify other green groups that might contribute articles. If enough were interested then the GT might only contribute occasionally.

ACTION ITEM: Chris Haddox will contact the newspaper to see if the above idea might be accomplished.

Item 7: Miscellaneous

Jim Kotcon discussed projects like the Square at Falling Run, a Tax Increment Financing project. He will keep us informed on progress with TIF districts.

Bill Wonderlin said he is still working with the Green Building conference. The Chamber is interested but movement on this has been slow.

Next meeting is July 2. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM

Submitted by Larry Harris, Secretary