

Green Team Meeting July 9, 2009

Attendance: Bill Wonderlin, Steven Woodruff, Martin Christ, Evan Hansen, Sheila Westfall, Will Reilly, Don Spencer, Jim Kotcon, John Hall, Trevor Lloyd, Chris Van Dyke (acting secretary)

Meeting began at 4:05 PM.

Item 1. Minutes of the June 5 Green Team meeting were approved with one minor change – Chris Haddox, not Patrick Kirby, mentioned the “green drinks” event.

Item 2. Report from the City

Trevor Lloyd will attend future Green Team meetings instead of Dan Boroff.

Trevor reported that CTL will close phase 1 of the energy contract this Tuesday (July 14). Constellation Energy, a Fortune 500 company, has acquired CTL; a much larger company will now back the contractual obligations.

The fire station is expected to open the first 2 weeks of August. The opening has been delayed due to the requirement to install a dedicated telephone line in the elevator. The LEED certification commissioning agent is waiting for the architect to submit architecture points. The “silver” certification level may be possible. USBGC can be slow - LEED certification may take a year. The fire station opening will be in two parts: a public function and a private one for retired firefighters and those close to the project. Publicity for the fire station / LEED certification could be used a “teaching moment.”

The City will nominate the Green Team for the “Community Star” award. This award is presented by West Virginia Municipal League and recognizes community contributions.

Item 3. Request from Friends of Decker’s Creek (Evan Hansen).

On behalf of the Friends of Decker’s Creek (FDC), Evan Hansen requested a letter of support from the Green Team to be sent to Gov. Manchin regarding an active treatment plant for the efflux from the abandoned Richard mine. The WV Department of Environmental Protection agreed to pay maintenance costs for the treatment plant, but now funding is in question. Building the plant is to be funded by NRCS but cannot go forward without DEP’s portion. Evan mentioned this project’s potential for economic development as well as water quality. Jim Kotcon voiced support but raised the question of whether this is within the Green Team’s charge.

ACTION ITEM: Bill Wonderlin will check with Dan Boroff to determine the appropriateness and will meet with Evan Hansen to draft letter.

Don Spencer raised the issue of water quality in the Monongalia River and gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale. Don reported that the state legislative efforts for this have stalled.

ACTION ITEM: Evan agreed to present an update on this issue at the August meeting.

Item 4. Comprehensive plan

In regard to using paper streets for greenways, Trevor mentioned that the tax maps have such streets indicated by dotted lines. Bill thought that a few good examples of paper streets for greenways would be useful as an illustration. Jim suggested a review of Sheila’s list to make certain that there are no omissions or controversial streets included. In response to discussion concerning developing flood plain areas as green space, Trevor noted that significant development in flood plains requires permitting.

Briefly discussed were:

- Bill asked if the Green Team could be involved in the selection of the consultant who will write the comprehensive plan. Don Spencer thought this was a good question.
- Will wants to have measurable carbon emission reductions built into the comprehensive plan
- Sheila will meet with the Neighborhood Council next Monday. She requested input for this prior to the meeting.
- Jim wants to set specific goals which provide measurable outcomes.
- Don thought potential allies exist for green goals e.g. AARP (in favor of walkable areas, historic preservation). Bill suggested recruiting representatives from such groups to the Green Team.
- Steve suggested putting bicycle racks along rail trail to park bikes.
- Will suggested the city could remove a few parking spaces downtown and replace with bike racks to encourage the use of bicycles.

Item 5. Report from Energy committee

Jim Kotcon reported the Energy committee met and reviewed CLT contracts for monitoring verification protocols. Five points were raised in regard to the energy contact and longer-term energy issues:

1. Need comprehensive database for City's actual energy usage to include electricity (kWh), natural gas (Mcf) and liquid fuels (gallons of gasoline, diesel) to cover several years.
2. Continue to monitor energy usage to get baseline and to find trends. This will help CLT to verify performance and help City to identify additional areas for decreasing energy usage.
3. Identify operational changes to save energy e.g. turn off computers at night
4. Energy usage by MUB. So far not included, but MUB uses substantial energy to pump water.
5. Determine energy usage of City's vehicle fleet.

Don noted that MUB is an entity separate from the City but may be an opportunity to review in conjunction with recent rate increase request. Trevor said that the city garage has some records on fuel usage that are on paper and it may be possible to get data from a computer system that monitors the fuel pumps. No other data has been kept.

Item 6. Update on Green Team website

Chris Van Dyke thanked Sheila Westfall for writing four different documents that will be put on the web site following approval by the city. Sheila requested ideas for additional content. Some ideas were a "contact us" page, profiles of "neat" projects.

Item 7. Greening the Library: Not discussed.

Item 8. New Business

Bill Wonderlin discussed the need to recruit new members. The table at the Farmer's market was not a great recruitment opportunity. Don Spencer mentioned a few candidates. Sheila Westfall volunteered to be come a member. Some sources for potential recruiting were mentioned including the Law School, Chris Haddox, and the WVU sustainability office.

Don suggested that the Green Team might tour the house recently built by John Garlow in the Maidsville area. Bill thought this could help generate some ideas. Some discussion of possible dates followed.

Next Meeting at August 6, 2009 at 4 PM. Meeting adjourned at 5:54 PM.