

Detroit Green Task Force Meeting

February 18, 2010

-minutes-

Meeting was called to order at 3:09 by Kenneth Cockrel, Jr. in the Skillman Library Auditorium.

Welcome - Juliet Machie, Deputy Director, Detroit Public Library

Facility improvements to Detroit Public Libraries are in the works and will be following various green initiatives.

Introductions – Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

Update on City Council Ordinances – Rick Bowers

Green Purchasing Ordinance: Looking to eliminate the 5% up charge associated with making green purchasing choices over non green products and services. Also, environmentally friendly products and services will be purchased when given the choice. Discussion on this ordinance is set for Wednesday, March 3 at 1:00 p.m. with the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee.

Anti-Idling Ordinance: Idling is a significant contributor to pollution problems, especially where diesel emissions are present. Idling would be restricted to reduce emissions – with exceptions related to safety issues. The ordinance will be discussed on Monday, February 22 at the 10:00 a.m. Public Health and Safety Committee meeting.

The public is welcome to come to both ordinance meetings, as a show of support, even though these are not formal public hearings.

Following is the process of formal approval for ordinances:

- Introduction of ordinance
- Public hearing
- Final approval from city council

Power of Green Housing – Leslie Horn and Patric Horn

A 20 unit condominium complex on Rosa Parks is being planned using 93 shipping containers that are idle or retired. We have an abundance of idle shipping containers and this type of project puts them to valuable use. One challenge with this project is the mental picture associated with turning shipping containers into living spaces.

The goal is to break ground within the next 120 days.

Construction uses 97% steel – much is reusable from containers. Lumber use is decreased by approximately 85%. Energy efficient systems will be incorporated, including split-ductless heating and air system, tank less water heaters and a ceramic insulative paint additive which was made for NASA several years ago.

Discussion opened for questions and the following is noted:

- Project will use local labor.
- Welders will use extra material to produce items such as park benches.
- Working toward LEED certification.
- Building will be framed in less than 7 days.
- This project will be built on site. Second project may involve prefab method.
- Underground parking will include bike racks. Working toward walk able community.
- Selling price point: \$142/square foot (compared to \$145 - \$152/square foot for other area condos).
- Young Detroit Builders organization should be used as a resource for workers.

Non Motorized Plan – Prasad Nannapaneni, DPW

Plan calls for 295 miles of bike lanes. 2009 task force has been meeting monthly since August to work on the non motorized plan. By the end of 2010, Detroit will likely become the number one city in terms of bike lane availability.

Discussion opened for questions and the following is noted:

- Michigan Natural Resource trust fund is being targeted for greenways funding.
- Detroit is to be the featured city in the May/ June Metro Magazine issue.
- Dequindre and Riverfront path is under construction now and due to be completed in spring.

SHAR Green Initiatives – Gary Wozniak

SHAR stands for Self Help Addiction Rehabilitation and is a therapeutic community established in 1969. Shar serves approximately 2,500 individuals annually. The non-profit organization offers clients a supportive holistic approach to life. SHAR has a greater success rate at combating relapse compared to other conventional services. This may be attributed to the focus on education, mentoring, and job training.

Recovery Park project combines land repurposing, green initiatives, urban farming, training and education, with the ultimate goal being job creation. This is a 10 year project that involves commercial and housing development and other projects that will help the community.

25 non profits, 5 for profits, universities, Detroit Public Schools, Detroit Police Department – all participate in workshops. Various Detroit areas are being looked at for projects involving urban gardening that would employ 20 people for each parcel. Training would be aimed at reclamation, reconstruction, and greening of buildings. Michigan State University will be spearheading urban farming and Greening of Detroit is participating as well. A new educational campus is being considered with Detroit Public Schools. Green energy and agriculture components would be added into the curriculum.

Funding for the first phase is in place through the use of grants. Currently, SHAR is working on funding for the second phase. The goal is for the project to become self sustaining.

SHAR is a change agent for people and city as well.

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Discussion opened for questions and the following is noted:

- Currently discussing application for city owned land.
- Goal is to save structures rather than building new.
- Community meetings to address relocation of residents, keeping local residents' needs at the forefront.
- Urban agriculture questions can be addressed through Mr. Cockrel's office.

Earth Day Festivities – Bliss Cureton and Kelley Jones

Many kids are looking for jobs and want to participate in progressive activities taking place in our community. Agricultural projects are beneficial and provide positive experience for kids. Watching a seed grow to a productive plant can be metamorphic for kids. Even though our economy is not robust, we certainly have much energy waiting to be utilized through kids in our community. The kids need to be involved and hear the message that they are useful and are "okay".

Earth Day festivities are in early development stages and involvement of members is invited.

Special Guest: City Clerk Janice Winfrey

Looking for input on what we can do to be greener in the city clerk office. Current green efforts include reduction of paper use, recycling efforts of paper. Considering action for used election ballots. Would like to solicit input from the Green Task Force to expand on these efforts.

Ken Cockrel informed that when the task force was first started, there were two primary goals:

- To promote a green agenda in broader Detroit.
- To help city offices move toward green practices.

Announcements:

Chris Detjen of NextEnergy shared details of two upcoming events:

Engineering Society of Detroit Alternative Energy Conference: Creating Solutions, Driving Change

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Doubletree Dearborn Hotel

5801 Southfield Expressway

Detroit, MI 48228

Registration information, detailed agenda, and more at <http://ww2.esd.org/EVENTS/2010/2010-03-03-AltEnergy.htm>

Greenation Urban Green Summit 2010

Thursday, March 25 & Friday March, 26 2010

Doubletree Hotel in Downtown Detroit

525 West Lafayette Boulevard

Detroit, MI 48226

Registration information, detailed agenda and more at http://www.ourgreenation.com/home/urban_green_summit_2010

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City Clerk Janice Winfrey is a candidate for Michigan Secretary of State. Visit her website for details: Winfrey.com.

Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision (SDEV) handout distributed. This organization has been working to improve the environment and economy of Southwest Detroit and South Dearborn by communicating environmental risks and solutions, advocating for better community development, and expanding common ground to address various environmental issues. Visit www.sdevweb.org.

Greening of Detroit applications for gardeners and the 2010 calendar are available at detroitagriculture.com. General office phone number: 313 237 8733.

Debra Goldstein announced that there will be an Earth Day/Career Day at Randolph School. For more information, please call: 313 224 1896.

The Coleman Young Building has received its fourth Energy Star and is operating in the 82 percentile level of efficiency – a positive accomplishment since its original 60s percentile level of efficiency.

Ken Cockrel announced Rick Bowers will be leaving this office after three and a half years to work with Key Investment Group. Rick will be missed and we wish him the best of luck.

Rick Bowers commented that he has seen many positive actions in Detroit over the last few years and thanks all involved for their efforts. He will continue to live in and support the city.

Emery Northington has been working with Ken and will help out upon Rick's departure. Emery commented that he is honored to work with all involved and is ready to move forward.

The next Green Task Force meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 25 – this may change and all will be advised.