

## **Detroit Green Task Force Meeting**

March 24, 2011

-Minutes-

Meeting was called to order at 3:07 p.m. by Kenneth V. Cockrel, Jr., in the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor.

Introductions – Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

### **Water Subcommittee Update – Melissa Damaschke**

The following topics were discussed:

- Detroit Waste Water Treatment Plant
- The West Grand Boulevard Collaborative
- Detroit Water Agenda
  - Timeline
  - A draft should be available on May 2
  - A final draft should be available in mid-June
  - The next Water Subcommittee meeting will be on April 11, 2011, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m., @ the Center for High Technology, 2727 Second Avenue
  - Melissa Damaschke, Sierra Club can be reached at 313-965-0055

### **Climate Justice Workgroup Update – Roshani Dantas**

- Local governments around the world collaborating. Issues at hand:
  - Climate change, heat stress
  - Hosting a workgroup in Detroit
  - Heat stress – affects older people and young children
  - More asthma and cardiovascular issues are resulting from heat stress
  - Strategies for health consequences
  - How do we reach out to the community?
  - Energy plans, Health Department plans
- Looking to create an outreach for people affected by the heat
- Next meeting will be held in April
- Call 313-224-4718 to contact Roshani Dantas

### **Solid Waste Committee Update**

- **Recycling Pilot**
  - The West side has 95 gallon containers that are serviced twice a month
  - The East side has 18 gallon containers serviced once a week

- There are 2 types of containers to see which method works best
- This idea was launched while Ken Cockrel, Jr. was the Mayor
- 25% of the people in the pilot areas are participating
- This city recycling project will hopefully become city wide
- What is being done to get participation up?
  - Representatives of the recycling program are going out into the neighborhoods and to the schools
  - Contamination issues have been sited
  - The neighborhoods will be educated on the contamination issues
- **Update on the Detroit Renewable Energy Brownfields Tax Credits – Roshani Dantas**
  - Atlas Holdings bought the incinerator – it is now called Detroit Renewable Power, they also purchased Detroit Thermal
  - Atlas Holdings is seeking brownfields tax credits for both purchases
  - 3 million property tax abatement
  - The vote was 5-2 to support the brownfields tax credit for the incinerator
  - Detroit Thermal was approved
  - Many residents opposed the tax abatement
  - The next meeting, regarding the above issues, will be held on April 28, 2011, @ 10:00 a.m. in the Committee of the Whole room, Coleman A. Young Municipal Center

### **Non-Motorized Task Force Update – Ashok Patel**

- Added to Detroit: 27.44 miles of bike lane
- WSU bike lane added
- State of Michigan added bike lanes on Michigan Avenue
- Corktown will have 16.7 miles of bike lane added in 2011
- Complete – SW Detroit Safety Project
- Second Avenue, Grand Boulevard to Hancock – to change from 1 way to 2 way with bike lanes
- Second & Third Avenues – to change from 1 way to 2 way with bike lanes
- 45 miles of new bike lane to be added to Detroit
- Where bike lanes are placed will depend on street parking and traffic
- Atwater bike lanes to be complete this year
- DDOT is looking into bike racks for the streets

### **Anti-Idling Workgroup Update – Ahmina Maxey**

- Enforcement is lacking – please join in and help!
- You can reach Ahmina Maxey @ 313-332-5389 or [ahmina@emeac.org](mailto:ahmina@emeac.org) to support this ordinance
- The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 4, 2011, @ 3:00 p.m. @ 87 E. Canfield, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, John R & Canfield

## **Urban Farming Policy Update – Kathryn Underwood**

- This group is continuing to work with WSU on the Right to Farm issues
- The city loses rights under the Right to Farm
- The Right to Farm was supposed to protect rural farms from urban sprawl
- Farms in the neighborhoods can have environmental issues
  - Science not developed with regards to pesticides and herbicides, as well as air quality in urban areas
- The group is also working with MSU to develop standards, along with soil issues, testing and economic development
- Job potential is being assessed
- Eastern Market is looking at food processing
- Questions:
  - What do we do with vacant space, should they be agriculture?
  - How can we be a part of the food processing industry?
  - Agriculture in the neighborhoods, what will it look like?
- A blog is being planned that will answer questions on the site. It will have an FAQ section as well as current documents with up to date information
- Community education so that everyone understands what urban agriculture is
- Things to be discussed:
  - Commercial agriculture
  - Agriculture and the environment
  - Farmers markets & stands
  - Indoor agriculture
  - Fish farming
  - How farming works in the neighborhoods
- Honey & Eggs = Bee's & Chicken
  - Intro to what is going on with this and the codes
- The Right to Farm act is not appropriate for us
- Looking at zoning changes, allowing agriculture in existing zones

## **Deconstruction Association of Detroit – Young Detroit Builders**

- YDB's are waiting for approval from the City on deconstruction projects
- Roshani Dantas will look into the approval hold up
- Next meeting will be on April 6, 2011
- Please send all of your thoughts and prayers to YDB's Program Director Rowland Watkins and his family
- Any one that wishes to make a donation in honor of Rowland Watkins, his family has asked that they be made to the Young Detroit Builders

## **Complete Streets – Todd Scott**

Complete Streets are roadways planned, designed and constructed to accommodate safe access for all users. On these street pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and public transit riders of all ages and abilities are able to safely move along and across streets which may include sidewalks, crosswalks and lanes.

- MDOT says these are of negligible cost
- Complete Streets legislation has passed, there is a policy and it is being implemented. The Health Department got the grant to implement Complete Streets
- If you are interested in learning more about Complete Streets please join us for a dinner provided by Slows BBQ, compliments of the Complete Streets Coalition, to discuss walking, biking and transportation in Detroit, on March 31, 2011, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. @ the Gaelic League, 2068 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, MI 48216
- New website [www.DetroitCompleteStreets.org](http://www.DetroitCompleteStreets.org)
- At this time there is no legislation for storm water to be added into Complete Streets

## **Lower Eastside Greenways Presentation – Sheu Jane Gallegher**

This project is being conducted by the Greater Riverfront East Environmental Network (GREEN) Task Force, a coalition of non-profit organizations and greenway stake holders.

The purpose of this project is to plan for a network of greenways in the Greater Riverfront East District of Detroit. The area is also known as the Lower Eastside.

- 10 new greenways
- River Walk to Grosse Pointe Park
- Villagesof [Detroit@gmail.com](mailto:Detroit@gmail.com) Sheu Jane Gallegher, 313-407-0948

### **Announcements**

- Warm Training Center & USGBC LEED for Neighborhoods, April 1, @ Lawrence Tech. [drc-usgbc.org](http://drc-usgbc.org)
- March 24, Rainbarrels & Garden Water – Sierra Club
- Detroit Youth Energy Squad, contact Justine @ Warm Training Center – [warmtraining.org](http://warmtraining.org)

Next Green Task Force Meeting is scheduled for April 28<sup>th</sup>, MSU Detroit Center, 3408 Woodward Avenue, 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.