

Detroit Green Task Force Meeting

February 24, 2011

-Minutes-

Meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m. by Kenneth V. Cockrel, Jr., in the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, 13th Floor.

Introductions – Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

Water Subcommittee Update

The Detroit Water Agenda, which is a summary of the storm water concerns, was discussed.

- Ecology of the region
- Water conservation for residents and businesses
- Storm water concerns & practices
- Wastewater management & reuse
- Recreation / resource section

Youth Subcommittee & Green Jobs /Green Business Updates

There have not been any update meetings this year for the above topics. From last year topics being looked at were:

- School systems
- Job programs & workshops

Green Building Workshop Presentation

The Green Building Policy, a process were we will look at and focus on municipalities, commercial and residential green issues. The Green Building Subcommittee will continue to work on:

- Air quality and LEED issues
- Dollar & size amount
- Existing buildings - Historic
- Look at ASHRAE
- Energy use priorities
- Water consumption
- Current energy and codes
- Working within the budget
- Consulting engineers when writing policy

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Residential & Rental

- New, rehab, presale
- Utility disclosure ordinance – when renting the landlord must disclose energy bill amounts
- Home labeling – incentives for landlords that are going green. A label for them that is green.
- Assist landlord with reference programs to lead them toward the green label
- Training inspectors
- Neighborhood pilot program
- Presale inspectors need to include lead testing
- New energy code coming in March, new homes have to have this code enforced

Kayak Ordinance

Right now it is illegal to launch a kayak from the banks of the Detroit River, this ordinance would change that. Currently we are waiting for the law department to contact council regarding this issue. Memorandum regarding launching kayaks in the Detroit River was given to the law department on February 15, 2011.

Urban Farming – Detroit to the Netherlands & Policy for Detroit

- Work continues on the Agriculture Ordinance
- Preparing for agricultural uses
 - Greenhouses
 - Nursery's
- Netherlands Transform by repurposing lands
- 36 new company's are employing people in Netherlands
- Global networks – agriculture in urban areas
- Educational Center – Detroit is chosen as the Educational Center for the U.S.
- Major projects are getting ready to be introduced
 - Tilapia Farm, Eastern Market
 - Buckeye Farms supplies 5,000 lbs a week, in the future will be supplying 10-75,000 lbs a week
 - 200 new jobs coming
 - Eastern Markets Peoples Perogi Collective supplying 50 dozen a week, now connected with Whole Foods and Plum Market will be supplying 5,000 dozen a week
 - Recovery park is going to create kitchen, there will be 5-30 new jobs coming from this project

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- 5 Acre Organic Orchard
 - Test Orchard
 - Hybrids
 - 20 grant funded jobs
- Recovery Park
 - Food production and delivery
 - w/DPS will repurpose Campbell Elementary into a 21st century campus for urban farming and food system delivery

Incinerator/Recycling Update (Zero waste & RAD)

The incinerator where Detroit's municipal solid waste is burned, at I-75 & I-94, is operating again, since December 2010, after a short shut down. The new owner is Detroit Renewable Energy (DRE), a subsidiary of Atlas Holdings, based in Connecticut. The City has a contract with DRE for 11 years @ the rate of \$25/ton. There is some confusion about the hauling costs.

The new owners are seeking a tax abatement from the City, for 12 years, which Zero Waste Detroit opposes. City Council would have to approve it. Owners are also seeking subsidy through the Brownfield Development Authority, and a \$75M bond inducement from Michigan's Strategic Fund.

- The conjoining of Detroit Thermal and the incinerator in Detroit Renewable Energy is an artificial construct; there is no inherent benefit to the city.
- The business plan for the incinerator is not convincing
- The disparity of rates continues. DRE is now offering lower disposal rates to municipalities surrounding Detroit, e.g. \$14 per ton to incinerate Warren's waste.
- DRE has not made a convincing case of investment in the facility

Better Buildings & Retrofit Ramp Up-Energy efficient homes and buildings in Detroit and local job creation

- Six neighborhoods will be looked at for energy upgrades
- There is an outreach team working with the neighborhoods
- All neighborhoods will be selected by June 2011.
- Long term vision is to work with locals for an on going project
- It is being looked at as to whether local suppliers are being used
- For more info please contact Jacob Corvidae, Warm Training Center @ 313-894-1030

SmartBuildings Detroit

The Economic Development Corporation of the City of Detroit is now accepting applications for grants from its \$1.9 million SmartBuildings Detroit

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Program, and loans from its \$1 million revolving loan Green Fund, for energy efficiency improvements in privately owned buildings in the Woodward Corridor. Building owners may apply for grants and loans totaling up to \$100,000 for eligible energy saving projects.

The goal of this program is to demonstrate how energy efficiency improvements can help make a wide range of older commercial buildings economically viable.

For more information and to receive a loan application contact: Scott Veldhuis, SMARTBUILDINGS DETROIT PROGRAM, Economic Development Corporation of the City of Detroit, 500 Griswold, Ste. 2200, Detroit, MI 48226, 313-963-2940.

Michigan Saves Energy Efficiency Loan Program

The Michigan Saves Home Energy Loan Program provides an easy, affordable financing option for homeowners who want to invest in high efficiency home improvements, such as furnaces, insulation, or new windows. Michigan Saves manages a network of authorized contractors who perform the installations, and works with lender partners who offer the standardized loan product in return for a loss reserve allocation to partially cover losses.

Michigan Saves has dedicated \$3.4 million of its credit enhancement fund to the Home Energy Loan Program, which has leverages \$68 million in private sector funding available for loans. This amount can finance roughly 10,000 simultaneous loans, depending on the loan size. As loans are paid off, remaining loss reserve funding is recycled back into the program to support new loans. The program is available to customers statewide through an authorized contractor as of February 15, 2011. If you have any questions please go to www.michigansaves.org or contact Sally Talbeg, Manager Program Design & Implementation, Michigan Saves @ 517-484-4954

Updates for Second Green Task Force Interim Report

The Interim Report is an on-going, working document and is meant to serve as an update to Council of what the Green Task Force is and where it is going. As the Green Task Force reaches more of its goals, this report will be issued again, highlighting such achievements.

Announcements

- Greening of Detroit job openings – sustainable food jobs, connect with current job opportunities, contact sal@gofd.com
- HEP/Greenways Mini-Grant Program. For more information contact Julia Weinert at 734-763-0741, weinertj@umich.edu or go to the HEP

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website at www.hepdetroit.org and click on 'Community Activities'. Mini-Grant materials will also be available at neighborhood development corporations in Eastside, Northwest, and Southwest Detroit. **The application deadline is April 15, 2011.**

- GreeningDetroit.com was a 2011 Winner of the Corp! Magazine Michigan's Going Green Award for being a Green Industry Innovator!
- Sierra Club has a Detroit Think Green Series which includes: Save Water & Money March 5; Landscape with Native Plants March 8; Plan & Plant a Rain Garden March 15; and Rainbarrels & Garden Water Conservation March 24, for more info call 313-965-0055
- Greenways vision for Detroit's Greater Riverfront East – Open House on March 5, please call 313-444-0062 for more info.
- Discussion on Bike Tourism and More... Wednesday, March 23 @ International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit, 111 E. Kirby, Hall of Nations Room. 313-871-8600
- Michigan Bike Summit, March 26, Lansing, Michigan, contact Rich Moeller, 517-334-9100, office@LMB.org
- Visit the Warm Training Center for videos & case studies
- Eco Store Tours, please contact Connie Lilley @ 248-830-0476
- Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision has free air quality and lead poisoning prevention magnets and more! www.sdevweb.org

The next Green Task Force Meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2011, from 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Location: TBD. Date is subject to change and all will be advised if a change is made.