

Green Task Force Meeting

October 28, 2009

minutes

Meeting was called to order at 3:13 pm. by Ken Cockrel, followed by introductions. Ken Cockrel welcomed everyone and commented on the objective of the meeting being to highlight and report on various projects that are taking place throughout the city.

Presentations:

The Green Technology Group – Gary Conti

Program is called “Geo Now” and encompasses high performance geothermal technologies representing highest savings in terms of geo savings. The program is aimed at reducing energy bills 25% - 90%, allowing investment in yourself, the city, and the community.

Some examples of substantial cost savings through geotechnology:

LoFontaine Dealership

Great Rivers Medical Center

Salem Community College

Novi homeowner

Geothermal technologies used as an alternative energy option highlights:

- 1/3 of the footprint of conventional systems
- Most earth friendly of the renewable, sustainable programs
- Yields 45% more energy than other green programs
- Costs less to install compared to other green processes
- Efficiency is 500% - 600%

The Green Technology Group partners with several companies to provide overall facility automation, integrated architecture and single control process.

Meeting opened for questions and it was determined that the Green Task Force can help by embracing the geothermal concept and moving the city into this direction.

GreeningDetroit.com – John Carlos and Connie Lillie

Greening Detroit.com is a dynamic website due to be launched soon and provides:

- Green products and services supplied by companies committed to environmental issues.
- Educational resources regarding green issues.
- Non-Profit organizations that are successful in improving the environment.
- Local news and events.
- Government involvement.

The website will satisfy the need to access information regarding commercial/industrial and residential green products and services.

GreeningDetroit.com also focuses on community involvement in the environment and includes the entire Metro Detroit area.

Meeting opened for questions and it was determined that Greening Detroit.com has an office at Tech Town, in Detroit.

ASHRAE- Sonya Pouncy

ASHRAE is developing a building energy labeling program and is launching a pilot for the program soon. The Labels provide information on the amount of energy used as well as the potential amount of energy to be used. Decisions on where to locate can be based on this label program.

Meeting opened for questions and the following was determined:

- Detroit has the first municipal building (The Coleman Young Center) in the United States that is part of this pilot program.
- ASHRAE is considering including the Detroit Public Library and Detroit Public schools as part of the program.
- The labels provide a method to confirm if a building is operating the way it should in terms of energy consumption.
- This program is aimed specifically at energy use and is built upon the energy star program.
- There is no cost for the pilot program; there will be a cost after the pilot.

71 Garfield – Diane Van Buren

A new green district is being developed along Woodward in the Sugar Hill Historic District and the following details are part of the plan:

- Walkways will be constructed connecting the buildings.
- Two new structures will be built and will provide work and living spaces for artists.
- The plan will assist with reduction of auto dependence as the location is convenient to other destinations.
- Solar roof panels will supply 20% of power load – maybe even 30 – 40%.
- Geothermal technology will be incorporated.
- Education of construction crews on reduce, reuse, and renew concepts will be provided.
- Will use a cistern for water efficiency.

Meeting opened for questions and the following was determined:

The opening date is projected for January.

The project is in drywall stage.

This project is not LEED certified, but it is using Green Globes.

Project leaders are working to tie historic issues with green technology issues (solar panels).

There is a possibility of involvement from the Green Task Force to help with ordinances.

W.A.R.M. Training Center – Jacob Corvidae

The center provides energy education for households especially in lower income levels. 8000 households are projected to work on energy efficiency in the next year.

The Southeast Michigan Regional Energy Office provides services to local governments to help address training issues while dealing with financial strain.

The Green Jobs Program was founded in 1981 to train workers and have them weatherize homes.

The Detroit Youth Energy Squad was in full operation this summer and involves Detroit youth ages 16 -20 in training programs for weatherizing buildings.

Two major high schools are being considered to partner with for these training programs.

The weatherization specialized training program trains unemployed people. Some partners involved in this program are Henry Ford Community College and Focus Hope. This is a ten week course, 30 – 40 hours per week.

Meeting opened for questions and the following was determined:

- There is an increased number of Detroiters interested in and asking for information about efficient use of energy.
- The program provides some certification (not lead).
- Possibility of partnering with other organizations.
- Visit the web page: WarmTraining.org.

DWEJ (Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice) – Donelle Wilkins

This is one of the first organizations to launch green jobs training program (1997).

The program provides the Build Up Detroit Project (16 week program):

First half of the program: Basic skills to get ready for state test – math, computer, life skills, counseling. Get and keep jobs. There is a physical fitness portion to sustain a full work day.

Second half of the program: Training in hazardous materials, LEED certification, asbestos certification, weatherization, OSHA training, CPR and defibrillator use, geothermal and energy audit training, deconstruction, computer aided drafting.

Register on line

www.dwej.org

Meeting opened for questions and the following was determined:

- Eighth grade reading level is required.
- Registration is also provided through the administrative office.
- Students are eager for the training this program provides.
- Interested employers should call 313 833-3935 or contact Kinnus@dwej.org

Key Investment Group – RoseMarie Dobek

Has spent three years researching the City of Detroit for green opportunities. Promotes the building of sustainable lifestyles in Detroit in an affordable manner.

Chose Detroit as a place to do business because:

It is the #1 city for new permits in Southeastern Michigan.

Detroit is #31 in sustainable ranking compared to other large cities.

Supports use of the following:

- LEED residential housing
- Gray water
- Renewable energy
- FCS certified lumber
- Efficient plumbing fixtures

Key will provide first 2 years rent- free and supports training for and creation of green collar jobs.

Program 1 surrounds the renovation of the Book Tower and Building, a \$320,000 investment aimed at creating 970 green, sustainable residences. Key is in the final phase of funding. The renovation will also include retail space, new roof, exterior cleaning and will use geothermal systems, green roofing and plumbing to reduce water usage. This project is Gold LEED certified.

The meeting was opened for questions and the following was determined:

- Rent would be approximately \$800/month
- Will work to employ Detroiters in this project with the help of non-profit organization involvement.
- Key Investment Group is located in Clinton Township and is planning to lease space in Detroit.
- This is the first project of its size for Key.
- Two people on Key's team are Gold Leed Certified.

Announcements:

Automation Alley will host a Green Tech meeting on November 10.

SEMCOG will host a workshop on November 6: “Saving Money Through Energy Efficiency Actions”.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:08 pm.