

Detroit Green Task Force Meeting Minutes

November 30, 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.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Youth Subcommittee Update (Roshani Dantas)

- The Detroit Youth Green Economy Summit was a success, with much credit going to Roshani Dantas
- 200 high school students were in attendance
- There were workshops and great momentum in the room
- Internships: work is being done and more to come

- **Detroit Community Schools (Bart Eddy)**
- Working in Brightmoor on the neighborhood's abandoned properties
- An abandoned garage was turned into a workshop
- Brightmoor/Detroit Community Youth Entrepreneurs = Brightmoor Woodworkers – custom sings by design
- Sign orders now being taken, contact Bart Eddy 313-477-7346 or beddy@detcomschools.org
- T's and hoodies also being sold by the Brightmoor Woodworkers, support them by ordering now, contact Bart Eddy 313-477-7346 or beddy@detcomschools.org

Green Building Subcommittee Update (Roshani Dantas)

- Resolution being reviewed
- Municipal building policy
- Draft ordinance vs. resolution forms, very soon

Residential Energy Subcommittee Update (Joel Heeres, WARM Training)

- Rental sector – largest portion
- Policies utility disclosure
- Looking into rental housing data
- HUD Challenge Grant – did not get it

Municipal Solid Waste Task Force (Allison Skinner, Clean Energy Coalition)

- Grant from Kresge Foundation for outreach to go into affect in 2012
- Household curbside collection decreases from 30,000 to 25,000 due to people moving out of the neighborhoods
- For more information, contact allison@sec-mi.org or call 734-585-5720

Fleet & Fuels Task Force (Kelly Jezierski, Next Energy)

- New Economy Initiatives
- Next Energy is a non-profit, in Detroit
- www.nextenergy.org
- Grants from NEI & the Kresge Foundation
- Support city with green economy and initiatives
- Fleet & Fuels Task Force is new and is meeting monthly
- Work plan goal: reduce GHG emissions, save \$\$, reduce fuel

POLICY UPDATES

Anti-Idling Subcommittee Update (Kelly Jezierski, Next Energy)

- Idling stinks
- The average truck idles 1,800 hours a year
- Elevated noise levels
- Impaired drivers rest & health
- Decreases engine life
- Can cause cancer, asthma, etc...
- Detroit Police are responsible for enforcement of the ordinance
- The ordinance passed in late 2010
- SDEV has the whole ordinance posted on their site

- **Anti-Idling Work Group**
- Cross functional group
- Established in spring 2011
- Support the City of Detroit Anti-Idling ordinance
- City vs. State
 - State is softer on idling
- If the city adopts its own ordinance in cooperation with the state the city gets 100% of the funding, if not it is split 70/30 (30% to state)
- Idling recording forms are available for reports
- Hot spots for idling are: Eastern Market, border, etc...
- Next meeting is December 16, 2011, 10:00 a.m.-Noon, @ the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, Planning Commission Room 202

Kayak Ordinance Update (Anita Twardesky, Riverside Kayak)

- The Detroit River is state regulated
- Launching – looking to create an ordinance for this
- The City cannot regulate what is on the water, only what is happening on the land
- Looking into language for launch site
- River trail map & signage coming in the future
- Launch only from designated sites, for safety
- Also new sites to be added

Update on Brownfields Tax Incentives for Incinerator (Roshani Dantas)

- There was a hearing held 11/17/2011
- Issue was moved out of committee, vote was 5 to 4

Urban Agriculture (Kathryn Underwood, City Planning Commission)

- Stakeholders group met
- Looking at proposed language to facilitate urban agriculture
- Try to get around the Right to Farm Act
- 2 legislators went forward, on their own, to try to get a bill to exempt Detroit

PRESENTATIONS

Water Subcommittee Update – “Detroit Water Agenda” (Melissa Damashke & Khalil Mogassabi)

- Water Subcommittee was created by Ken V. Cockrel, Jr., in September 2010
- Promoting sustainability in the region and water conservation
- Purpose of Water Agenda
 - List recommendations
 - Discuss water issues
 - Work in progress document
 - Consists of 10 issues
 - Provides framework for discussion
- Cover all water issues in the region
- Other great lakes communities have documents to protect their water
- This agenda will make us competitive with other cities
- Water Shed Plan – all of Detroit is not covered by Water Shed Plan
- Finalization of Detroit Water Agenda draft April 2012

Bantom Global Industries (Rhonda Bantom)

- New company – located at 19001 Glendale, Detroit, MI 48223
- Premiere manufacturer of alternative/renewable energy products
- New clients – Seab Energy Ltd. & Midwest North Pellets USA
- Bantom participated in a recent Focus Hope Job Fair
- Brought on 5 employees so far
- Will be creating 42 jobs in total
- Opening day will be – January 2, 2012
- Ken Cockrel, Jr., will help with filling positions as will GreeningDetroit.com for Bantom
- For more information, contact: Rhonda Bantom, 248-388-0022 or rbantom@bantomglobalindustries.com, www.bantomglobalindustries.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- No December Green Task Force Meeting
- December 8th, Sierra Club is sponsoring a Food Drive / Pot Luck – 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., at the Sierra office.
- Zero Waste Detroit meeting, December 13, 2011, 10:00 a.m., Hannan House, 4750 Woodward, Detroit.
- Next Anti-Idling Subcommittee meeting, December 16, 2011, 10:00 – Noon, Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, City Planning Commission, Room 202
- Next Water Subcommittee meeting, December 19, 2011, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m., Metropolitan Center for High Technology, 2727 Second Avenue, Detroit, MI
- State Energy Sector Partnership Training Grant Opportunities. For more information go to <http://www.greeningdetroit.com/community/green-jobs/>
- Rails to Trails – creating a nationwide network of trails from former rail lines and connecting corridors to build healthier places for healthier people
- Kenneth V. Cockrel, Jr., is now a Member of the Board of Directors at Rails to Trails, www.railstotrails.org
- Zero Waste Detroit – report foul odors from the incinerator area; call MDEQ 313-456-4712 & 800-292-4706 after hours to report.
- Keystone Pipeline Project, for more information call 248-258-5188
- Last but not least, Roshani Dantas is leaving Detroit and moving to Sacramento, CA. We will all miss her. Best of luck Roshani!

The next Green Task Force Meeting has not been scheduled yet. You will be advised next January 2012 regarding the next meeting date.

Happy Holidays to All