

Detroit Green Task Force Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2012

-Minutes-

Meeting was called to order at 3:06 p.m. by Kenneth V. Cockrel, Jr. in the Coleman A Young Municipal Center, 13th floor

Introductions- Meeting attendees introduced themselves. Tina Jamilah Riley-Humphrey will be recording the minutes for the Green Task Force Meeting representing GreeningDetroit.com. Councilman Cockrel thanked GreeningDetroit.com for the special support they provide to the task force.

Sub-Committee updates

Water Sub-Committee (Melissa Damaschke, Sierra Club)

- Currently prioritizing recommendation in the “Green Agenda”
- Asked for addition partnering relationships with other city departments

Other Updates

Non-Motorized Plan (Prasad Nannapeni, Department of Public Works)

- Furthering the approved 2008 plan; Added sixty-one miles of non-motorized lanes
- Plans call for a total 140 miles by 2013
- Safety program to begin next year
- Up-to-date Routes can be found on Google Maps
- Will launch an app of routes soon with support of Rails and Trails Congressional sub-committee
- \$10 mil grant received will be used to expand the Dequindre Cut, Rehab four bridges, and create streetscapes as part of the mid-town green way project.

Update on Recycling (Ron Brundidge, Director, Department of Public Works)

- Expanded program into Detroit Works area
- Goal by end of October 36,000 households participants
- Getting good participation in new areas
- Contact Zero Waste Detroit for pick-up schedules

Status of Kayak Ordinance (Hon. Ken Cockerel for Anita Twardesky, Riverside Kayak)

- Ordinance wouldn't have been enforceable
- Focus is on access and identifying launch sites
- The Councilman is reviewing the language with the law department. He will have more information at next meeting.

Presentations

Khalil Ligon (LEAP-Lower Eastside Action Plan); Joan Iverson-Nassauer (FASLA)

- Presented PPT to share plans for the LEAP service area
- Working with University; Natural Resource and Environmental Studies to complete design work (FASLA)
- The group is developing evaluation tools
- Working in four geographic locations in Detroit

Urban Agriculture Ordinance (Katherine Underwood, City Planning Commission)

- Conducted three public meetings to educate and inform the citizens about urban farming
- Reviewed Draft of Urban Agriculture Ordinance
- Once adopted the ordinance will provide guidance for lawful agriculture activities
- Standards will include:
 - Farm products and uses and prohibitions.
 - Sale of farm products.
 - Accessory uses and structures used by urban gardeners/farmers.
 - Lighting and Signage.
 - Notice to abutting property owners.
 - Property maintenance.
 - Drainage.
 - Nuisance and general issues.
 - Motorized and other equipment; storage, hours of operation, noise and traffic
 - Compost.
 - Compliance with other regulations.
- The Urban Agriculture workgroup has a two phase ordinance plan.
 - Phase I- Cultivation
 - Phase II- Animals

Announcements

- New Technical Career Training School to open in 2014, Greenfield Academy
- WARM has green agenda on their website to inform voters in the 2013 elections

- September 29, 2012- Great Lakes Bat Festival
- October 7, 2012- Bike Ride- Meet up at 1:00p.m. at WSU
- October 9, 2012- Bioneers Conference
- October 13, 2012- Help Plant Rain Gardens (call (313) 965-0055 for info)
- October 17, 2012- Riverfront Conservancy Meeting- Riverwalk discussion
- October 20, 2012- 9:00 a.m. at Belle Isle for park clean up work day
- November 15, 2012- America Recycles Day
- Councilman Cockrell discussed the Belle Isle lease. He also asked for comments about the "Detroit Works". He wants to know if citizens think its working. Call his office or send an email.
- Closing remarks by councilman Cockrel included request to have presenters send their PPT Slides to him. He also mentioned the possibility of GreeningDetroit.com hosting the presentations as well as the minutes.

The next Green Task Force Meeting is scheduled for October 2012, date to be announced.