

Detroit Green Task Force Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2013

-Minutes-

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Kenneth V. Cockrel, Jr. in the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, 13th Floor.

Introductions – Meeting Attendees introduced themselves.

UPDATES

- Reception held at NextEnergy from Leslie Horn (CEO) of Three Squared Inc. (formerly known as Power Green Housing). The Award was for his diligence that provided the \$3.4-Million Shipping Container Condo project that will break ground in mid-December, near Wayne State University.
- Kenneth Cockrel Jr. thanked everyone with the Green Force Task Force, all the City Departments and all the entities that helped with the Innovative Green Project.
<http://www.threesquaredinc.com/news.php>

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Water Subcommittee - (Melissa Damaschke, Sierra Club)

- Water Resources- Spoke on the Infrastructure of water in general, and sewer water, SEMCOG (<http://www.semco.org/Stormwater.aspx>)
- Judge Cox, a Federal Judge, stated that there will be no Federal Oversight over the Water Department. The original Consent Agreement in operations has been dropped.
- Revisited February's meeting on SW Regional Vision, Water Conservation, Water Agenda Issues, and Rain Barrels.
- Nick Schrack from Wayne State Great Lakes Environmental City gave a short Presentation on City Codes and Ordinance Codes.
- The challenges were Swales in parking Lots and what materials are best to use.

OTHER UPDATES

Urban Agriculture - City Planning and Development Department (Katherine Underwood)

- Laura Buell of the City Planning and Development Department will be leaving the City of Detroit. Kenneth Cockrell applauded her hard work with the City, the "Green Task Force", and that she will be greatly missed.
- The Urban Agricultural Ordinance was passed.
- Building Safety and Engineering beginning 15 April/May 2013 will work together to provide permits for buying land for Agriculture, Gardens and Small Farming.

- Farm Animals such as: Rabbits Chickens, Bees and Goats will be looked at a later date and are not included in the Agriculture Ordinance.
- Detroit is still under the State of Michigan, Right to Farm Act.
- Questions were asked of the Attorney General for his opinion on exemptions and non-conformance uses in Detroit in GAAMPS (Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices)? He responded but did not specifically address the issue.
- Training will be needed and Non-Conforming uses will be spelled out.

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

- 140 miles of bike trails will be completed by the end of 2013. Approximately 84 miles will be completed by June 20, 2013.
- Todd Scott provided an update on Biking Access over the New Bridge to Canada. The US Border Patrol and Customs supports the plan.
- Senator Levin supports Bike Trails and sent a letter to Homeland Security.
- Mr. Todd Scott (Detroit Greenways Coordinator) answered questions pertaining to safe equipment, bike racks and ballers for the bike lanes for use in the winter time.
- Mr. Scott also answered questions on bike trails, walking trails, hiking trail, etc... Use Google Maps for updated trails.
- Kenneth Cockerel, Jr., asked Todd Scott about the new greenways on the eastside, the, " Elmwood", connector, around cemeteries and Joe Muir's property as a connector trail easement that will come up for approval next week.
- Education for everyone is paramount on all, biking, walking, or hiking trails.

PRESENTATIONS

Parkside Neighborhood, (Executive Director, Zachary Rowe) Collaboration; Presentation by Professor Joonsub, Kim, of Lawrence Technological University, College of Architecture and Design and Director of the Detroit Studio Community Outreach Program

- Parkside Neighborhood Community is across the street from Samaritan Center, next to Wayne Community College and Chandler Park off I-94; on the corner of Warren and Conner Street on the East Side of Detroit.
- Outreach Workshop Project for Lawrence Techs Students began in 2011. The purpose is to revitalize the neighborhood by working with its residents and turn it into a Sustainable Community. Workshops are held within the Community.
- A Presentation was on adding a Recreation Facility, spaces for youth, park structures, reclaiming open areas in Chandler Park, revitalizing Conner Creek (Storm water retention), and adding paths and gardens.
- Best Practices examples The Detroit Studio, finalized Master Plans in November 12, 2012; for starting implementation in 2013.
- Technology, Health (Air Quality) and Safety (surveillance) and Youth development were the main topics of discussion.

- Kenneth Cockrel, Jr. supported the Collaboration and suggested that since they are part of the DPP Housing Commission, to utilize federal funding as one of the resources.

Announcements

- Attorney Rick Bowers reminded him that 28th March was the 6th Anniversary of the Green Task Force.
- Kenneth Cockrel Jr. received an Award on March 19th at a Launch
- Dispose of your e-waste at WSU. For more information, contact Wally Pociask, associate director of OEHS and hazardous materials manager, at 313-993-7655.
What: E-waste collection available to campus community and public. When: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday, April 24, 2013. Where: Parking Lot 11, MI 48202.
April 20, 2013 Detroit River Cleanup, Rotary Park;
<http://www.detroitriver.org/events.htm>

The next Green Task Force meeting is schedule for April 25, 2013 from 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. at the Coleman A. Young Center, Committee of the Whole 13th floor. Date is subject to change and all will be advised if a change is made.