

Detroit Green Jobs / Green Business Subcommittee

October 22, 2010

-Minutes-

Meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Introductions – Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

Presentation: Jean Redfield of Next Energy

Jean Redfield, of Next Energy, is submitting a proposal to the Kresge Foundation to create green economic activity and stay linked to the Detroit Works projects to make sure it has appropriate green technology, with transition projects.

We will be laying out the priorities for the city.

There is already a lot of activity around the city regarding economic development for the Detroit workforce. The new economy is not just knowledge based workers; the new economy must create space for a low income workforce. The era of the highly paid manufacturer workers has passed. Lower wage assemblers and worker positions must be created for the future.

Recommendations for the City of Detroit:

- Next Energy supports Detroit in efficiency and weatherization
 - EECBG is completed for 1/3 for \$9 million. \$1.5-3million savings in operations and maintenance
 - Work across the whole portfolio
- There is potential for fleet optimization: routes and vehicles portfolio fuel and review
 - There is grant money for alternative vehicles and alternative fuel vehicles
- Recycling: advanced materials, household recycling, commercial recycling
- Green Purchasing: how can we get greener local sustainable purchasing practices
- Solid Waste Management: storm water management plans
 - Take a look at alternative treatment and management technologies for DWSD
 - Create a Regional Plan: waste to energy, disposition

Question & Answer Phase:

- How does Next Energy work with DPW, Zero Waste wants to be involved? Our proposal involves partner organizations, but put is in place to provide support. The only way to get progress is to get a catalyst and Next

Energy is the catalyst. We also have a plan for a series of demonstration projects. DEGC / Detroit Public Lighting Department – Downtown lighting installation, stand alone battery operated street lighting option instead of DPLD.

- Are you involved in local clean power generation? There is the street lighting (solar powered street lighting), another is DTE, Eastern Market, wholesalers, geothermal based refrigeration. Looking for a partner for geothermal residential partner.
- How does DPLD comply with PA295? Energy efficiency is their highest priority; the buildings plan will help them reach their requirements. PV powered PLD street lights will comply with renewables requirements. There is a time limit to get started and there is a delay from the state. The question is complicated because some of the buildings are a combination of DTE/PLD.
- Are you looking at retrofitting diesel vehicles? There is money with EPA/MDRNE to retrofit existing diesel vehicles. The fleet optimization piece has not been touched yet. There is a lot of opportunity and a lot of funding sources but getting the administration going is a challenge.
- The city received \$30 million for bus transit; DEGC facilitated meetings, but city officials will not buy into new technology. How do we get and maintain funding and streamline the process sustainably? We need to make sure the process is effective from beginning to end. A job is created when someone is will to pay for a service; the city must be willing to do that.
- Is there any plan that addresses the issue of contractors and labor? We are working with the city on contractor and purchasing ordinances, current and proposed.
- WD stakeholder group (Detroit Fund) how do we work the city to contractor and contractor to labor issues? We have not brought D4 into the other pieces.
- Have you thought about the Gitney? We have not yet been involved in regional transportation.
- Have you looked into the Living Wage Ordinance? Or the DBB/DBE preference? We are just starting to look at that, basic compliance and monitoring contract compliance.
- Is the information from the FBI being incorporated? No
- In regards to the claw back provision; have you looked at collaborative for the reporting mechanism between HRD, PDD? This is in line with what we are thinking about, but the city may not have the capacity to do that.
- Is there an economic downturn as a result of the reducing the city and city employees, and the city does not have the capacity to complete certain tasks. Are you looking at the balance sheet of the impact of labor reduction on the city as it is one of the largest employers? We have not looked at that yet. The city will reduce the staff but that will have to be balanced against the reduced cost inside the city. We do not know how that will work yet.

Detroit Green Jobs / Green Business Subcommittee

- What does the Green Task Force do? What are its goals? The force brings together multi-stakeholder groups to discuss sustainability issues. We are having discussions on and about priorities. The Green Building subcommittee is looking at those policies and they will be presenting to the council and offering recommendations. Cockrel does want a green building policy to move forward to lead into a broader sustainability plan. The interim report was completed last year to set the tone for the taskforce accomplishments. This subcommittee leverages the work of all the great coalitions already in existence. There is not concrete answer on that. There is a fallacy that there will need to be jobs lost, if we reduce structural costs we can increase services.
- Is there a retraining opportunity for boilermakers? Yes, but I do not know what the labor agreements will be around energy efficiency. We are trying to get certified facility managers training.
- Is there a single model for a job creation and cost reduction? There is no one model. This is a complex issue, but we need to get beyond the federal dollars.
- How is preparing Detroit's workforce to obtain careers beyond low skill labor going to advance manufacturing? Detroit Workforce Development is struggling to find people to register in this program. How do we bring qualified technicians to work towards this, but train upcoming workforce to be qualified? A skilled workforce will attract private investment.
- Can Detroit predict the next job wave? There are different philosophies to approach this. We can create anchor businesses that do not depend on the fluctuations of the market. Evergreen Coops and Mondragon are two that look like this.

Meeting adjourned. The next Water Subcommittee meeting has not been scheduled yet, all will be advised when a date is set.