**Detroit Green Task Force Minutes**

January 15, 2015

**Meeting Presenters**

Ecoworks/ Eco-D Program, Jacob Corvidae  jacob@ecoworksdetroit.org

East Ferry and I-75 Development, Julio Bateau discovereastferry@gmail.com

Building Safety Engineering and Environmental Department, LaReina Wheeler Wheelerla@detroitmi.gov

**Attendance**

Ashlee Arder, Creative Many

Margret Weber, ZWD

Kathryn Underwood, CPC/LPD

Lareina Wheeler, BSEED

Peter Beuz, Friends of the Detroit River

Kimberly Simmons, Detroit River Project

Erma Leaphart, Sierra Club

Tom Wojwode, CFSEM

Cathleen Francois, [GreeningDetroit.com](http://GreeningDetroit.com)

Aimie LaLonde-Noman, Friends of the Rouge

Ahmina Maxey, Zero Waste Detroit

Tim Springer, The Greenway Guy

Ray Pitts, Greenfield

Patrick Smithbauer, Ford Land/USGBC

Sal Stabile, Resident

**Presentations**

Jacob Corvidae, Executive Director of EcoWorks Detroit (formerly known as Detroit Warm Center) presented for his organization, highlighting:

NOTES FROM JACOB

Jacob Corvidae of EcoWorks presented on the new Eco-D project. Eco-D is a collaboration between Detroit Future City, Community Development Advocates of Detroit, Greening of Detroit, Vista Vantage and EcoWorks. It is building partnerships with neighborhoods that want to pursue green development to help them achieve that vision. Applications for the first round of Eco-D neighborhoods are underway and due January 20.

The program focuses on meeting basic needs in the neighborhoods with sustainable solutions that serve economic, environmental and social benefits. Eco-D is also strongly supporting community-driven development, by only supporting projects with a democratic process in place for the community's support of the plan.

More information is available at <http://www.ecoworksdetroit.org/eco-d>

The Detroit Youth Energy Award

Grant to make sure that all children understand energy efficiency

Policy meeting with Obama was awarded in the past for student

SW Reg. Energy office to create change in energy issues in local government; creates platform for modeling state policy.

Every Detroit Neighborhood Becoming Green consulting program – exploring the use of energy dollars to tackle water issues

Eco

Reclaim Detroit - Deconstruction initiative

Advocacy through Green Task Force…

Concerns about the possibility of Detroit being irrelevant again in forty years if we don’t use community and sustainability together with projects utilizing the idea of triple bottom line.

Water issues and blackouts

Eco D

Neighborhood scale project development - more comprehensive and in alignment with Future City and working with K. Cockrel Jr. and staff

Building Model that is going different ways for different cities

Approach doesn’t have one model; process is unique for each area and circumstance

Mission to help every neighborhood in Detroit become an eco-district.

Basic criteria is needed for second steps; willing to help with first steps.

A neighborhood whose residents and building owners are committed to making annual progress toward sustainability with projects that meet basic needs.

Eco social

Criteria:

Community driven - 2/3 participation. What does this look like? Unsure.

Support?

Identified sources of funds; nothing evident yet

Number of sustainability leaders through the states are supportive; national and local investors; this model may make claim as a role model in the future

Documented Process approving of a Green Plan

Willing to work at different scales

Size could be from one block to as large as 80 blocks

Transit, bus stops, and other transportation ideas

Service partners ready to start making sure they are on board

WHERE?

Phil - How do you articulate the outcomes and allow citizens of the neighborhoods to realize these benefits?

*Start with education and with neighborhoods that are motivated. Many are on board; some neighborhoods already have projects started. Plans in a year to have 6-8 projects underway*

Sue - What is the value of *community* as creative force and idea as opposed to what people are doing individually?

*2 things; commitments from service partners and criteria that set a bar that creates motivation from other neighborhoods, i.e. ones that will create a ‘brand’.*

*Time and effort goes into deploying what they want if the neighborhood requests it.*

Tom - What does this look like in areas already operating out of the state??

*Unique but with common threads. Trying programs like Target Cities; technical expertise being brought in, sharing advisors with the necessary knowledge,*

*Nationally things are all over the board from huge systems set up around campuses, to residents clearing streetscapes, bike shares, etc. Extremely varied manifestations but with common missions*

Katheryn - 2 comments –

*People are engaged but don’t call it sustainability, they call it “survival ingenuity”.*

*They are relevant whether they use the same words or not. This is not about vocabulary as much as it is engaging the communities that need action and listening to their communal voices.*

*Applauds the idea of bringing in the community so that they are not skeptical.*

Applications available at: ecoworksdetroit.org/ecod

**Informal meetings**

Tightening down with core group creating more connections

Has spoken with 20/30 district, but that is designed for commercial buildings, although this is complimentary.

Scott - How can I do this as a Council Person?

*Send information and prompt emails to:*

NAILAH COMMONS

JULIO BATEAU

MIDTOWN DETROIT, INC.

**DEVELOPMENTS**

Arts center district

58 units being built, starting March or April

Video presented by Nailah, LLC availableonline:

<http://www.nailahllc.com/ferry.html>

* Walking to Wayne State University, DIA
* available Winter 2015

313-874-3545

The construction of 8 new townhome apartment buildings totaling 58 units of rental housing, of which 20% will be affordable for households earning 60% AMI, along E Ferry Street, Chrysler Service Road, and E Kirby Street (the “Project”).  Construction will begin in the spring of 2015

These units will incorporate a classic townhouse style, featuring modern amenities combined with historic architectural elements. The exteriors are of a classic colonial character with tall windows and an ample amount of brick giving the buildings visual strength. Details such as window heads, decorative deck railings and wood doors will provide a historical context which complements the surrounding neighborhood.

**Community Benefits:**

1) Site Improvements include environmental remediation, erosion and sedimentation control, landscaping, storm drain labels.

2)Increases Density of the Area

3)Promotes Walkable Communities

This project is a collaboration of Nailah LLC, The City of Detroit and Midtown Inc.

Begin objective to open to the arts center area

* Used to be old Hastings Street district
* Phase one historical site research done
* Phase two; subsurface investigations for impact to clear liability for environmental issues
* Site cleaned from old commercial contamination
* Wayne County, Port Authority, DEQ, City of Detroit
* started 2006 with assessments and grants, along with port authority

 including ground penetrating radar which showed gas station tanks below.

* City came in and followed with money for additional clean up

70 grand to remove tanks and soil

They met with DEQ to complete the cleanup. State is currently selecting consultants for the remedial and full clean up

Success story is they will be able to start 9 million dollar project this spring.

Looking for city funds to create 20% affordability financing.

Comment:

Helaniuos Phillips;

Has the project been approved?

100% Brick buildings. Prpoperty was purchased because of the safety of the children at school across the street. The large issue with the bridge is that the truck traffic is an issue, though the law is that they are not supposed to drive on surface streets.

Todd will meet Julio to discuss the issue.

Occupancy slated for April 2015

**SUB COMMITTEE UPDATES**

*Blue Green Infrastructure* - meeting Jan. 20, no updates, inviting 3 organizations people to talk of green mapping, data driven detroit coming,

Sierra Club office Block at Cass Park Building, (Kresge Headquarters), 1-3p.m.

*Good of the order; conversation in November*

* Paying point for tax abatements for larger polluters

Agenda; notice for approval for tax credits for large corp. polluters / tax credits go to these companies without being asked for proof

City gets notice when these applications come in and are approved, but no one has asked for proof of situation being fixed.

Talked to assessors office to have the Task Force look into the documentation

*Green Water Initiative*

Talking about MOU; meeting in February to go forward on documents being signed

*Catherine - Submitted 3 ideas*

ASK FOR WHAT

Hers is one being looked at

Detroit submitted 20% of the proposals, 20% being asked in Detroit

* Uber local food system house
* Interested in saving buildings and food, use vacant land or abandoned buildings to grow food, including fish.

Full Proposals due by February 1st

* Charles Cross, Detroit collaborative design is on team,
* Jay Richardson from sustainable water works,
* Netherlands people on board to teach on inside growing,
* Renee Wallace, Keep Growing Detroit person…

Pete, Friends of Detroit River

Exhibits available

Feb. 7 - Shiver on the River event at casino and entire island, including facilities like:

* Coast Guard Station - open for tours
* Yacht club and Boat club open for tours
* All other buildings on island will be open

Casino has exhibitors,

\*\*\*including UN Assoc. of Greater Detroit, taking chapters sphere of interest into the environment.

First time on Belle Isle:

* Stonefly Hunt at friends of detroit Blue Lagoon. FER Turtle Peninsula - walkable bridge made into a turtle sunning area
* Susan Thompson will be there to sample and show kids what is there; bug sorting

Report on State of the Island that day.

Fundraiser for the Aquarium; kids jump in the river to raise funds is uncertain due to requirements. Will be done next year if not this year.

The River is being designated a World Heritage Site, working with the UN becomes an international submission.

Charles Cross, Marygrove College and Wayne State University

Martin Luther King Day Event:

“Conversation with Dr. Richard Jackson”, at Henry Ford

Ms. Weiler

Grant of 200,000 was awarded

Currently adding Det. Environmental Employment Program to ….

Met with contractors at Det. Authority meeting about placement, getting several commitments from them for hiring. Advisory board to support modifications in training to assure educational needs. Looking for applicants and employers. These programs need a percentage of the graduates to be city residents.

**Feb 19 next meeting**

Councilman, Scott Benson

Andrew Sokoly

Ashlee Arder, Creative Many ashlee@creativemany.org

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