

Detroit Green Task Force Meeting

October 28, 2010

-Minutes-

Meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Kenneth V. Cockrel, Jr., in the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, 13th Floor.

Introductions – Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

Water Subcommittee Update

The Water Subcommittee's purpose as a Green Task Force Subcommittee is to focus on water related issues/challenges and focus on water as a component of and in the context of sustainability.

The Water Subcommittee reached a consensus on identifying a framework with key elements:

- Community outreach / education about water
- Water conservation / resources
- Water efficiency / energy
- Storm water best management practices
- Wastewater management and reuse
- New systems / technologies / innovations
- Regional cooperation / water affordability

The Water Subcommittee asks the Green Task Force for support, possibly a letter of support. Ken Cockrel asked for a full presentation by the Water Subcommittee in the first quarter of 2011.

Green Jobs / Green Businesses Subcommittee

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.

Recommendations for the City of Detroit:

- Next Energy supports Detroit in efficiency and weatherization
 - o EECEBG is completed for 1/3 for \$9 million. \$1.5-3million savings in operations and maintenance
 - o Work across the whole portfolio
- There is potential for fleet optimization: routes and vehicles portfolio fuel and review
 - o There is grant money for alternative vehicles and alternative fuel vehicles
- Recycling: advanced materials, household recycling, commercial recycling

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- Green Purchasing: how can we get greener local sustainable purchasing practices
- Solid Waste Management: storm water management plans
 - o Take a look at alternative treatment and management technologies for DWSD
 - o Create a Regional Plan: waste to energy, disposition

Solid Waste Subcommittee / Zero Waste Update

- Initiate an incentives program working with DPW
- Development on ownership of incinerator
- Monetary incinerator, sale of incinerator and the cities involvement
- No trash being burned – improves cities air quality
- Trash has been going to the landfill – recycling, recovery and reuse. Pilot program on the east and west side.
- Curbside program is the best way to go
- Pilot areas are being reeducated with regards to recycling.

Zero Waste Detroit

Goals

- Expand single stream pilot curbside project from 30,000 to 60,000.
- Increase household participation and tonnage collected in the curbside pilot through neighborhood partnerships and incentive rewards, e.g. RecycleBank
- Develop comprehensive plan for city-wide curbside by December 2010.

Rationale

- Alleviate health effects from pollutants from incinerator
- Capture the value of the waste stream for economic development and jobs
- Preserve national resources and reduce Detroit's carbon footprint

Greenways / Blueways Update

- Conner Creek, another section completed
- Corktown project continues to move along
- We have more miles of bike lanes than any other county
- Greenway Coalition – private partnership with Detroit and non-profits
- Detroit Parks Coalition – how do they stay open and maintain?
- Complete Streets Ordinance – is being worked on
- Kayak/Canoe Ordinance – it is currently illegal to launch from city water. The suggestion is to make a change to have non-motorized (kayak/canoes) less than 200 pounds approved for launching.
- Riverside Kayak
- SE Michigan has been approved for a trail guide

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Youth Committee Update

- Safety is a main issue, streets with empty houses, how can we make these areas safer?
- Block clean up will be on Joanne Street, off of Gratiot and 7 Mile Road
- Who owns these houses
- Young Detroit Builders will partner with the Youth Subcommittee on the clean up and to see what houses can be deconstructed

Deconstruction – Young Detroit Builders

- Looking for houses to work on
- Obstructions:
 - Electricity off
 - Asbestos
 - Are the houses paid off

Presentations

Solar and Advanced Energy Training Program – DWDD (Detroit Workforce Development Department)

- Green jobs training opportunities – state energy sector partnership grant
- WSU – Oakland Campus – offers undergraduate and a graduate certificate program in AES (Advanced Energy Storage)
- Michigan Tech University – on-line program – offers a graduate professional development program in AES
- Macomb Community College – has a non-degree AES certification program. This training covers an introduction to HEV (hybrid electric vehicles)
- A&D Tech Learning Center in Ann Arbor – offers a 2 day lab course in AES fundamentals of a battery systems program
- Henry Ford Community College – has a basic and advanced certificate in renewable energy

SEMWAC SESP Grants

- Advanced AES Grant
- Solar Energy Grant

Energizing Vacant Parcels

- Eric McDonald 313-618-1976, esm@hotmail.com
- Dust Project (Detroit Urban Solar Team)
 - Detroit has vacant land
 - Current conditions

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- Options
- Land opportunities
- Dust proposals
 - Use vacant parcels to generate electricity utilizing alternative energy sources
 - Use vacant parcels of land to install solar arrays to generate clean, renewable energy for the use by residential and commercial customers
 - Solar array on vacant land. Feed into PLD street lights. Lower fuel costs
 - Solar array on vacant land. Feed into DTE and/or PLD grid. Generate revenue.
 - Solar array on carports for public parking lots. Feed power to light rail. Feed into electrical vehicle charging stations.

Red Fields to Green Fields

- Red Fields to Green Fields is a public/private effort that will: Acquire financially distressed properties (real estate “in the red”). Convert them into public parks and adjacent land “banked” for future sustainable development.
- Problem: Commercial property threatens our communities, businesses, hundreds of small and mid-sized banks, and the FDIC
- Promise: Parks improve the economy, environment, and health of a city. We can seize this historic opportunity to create more liveable, healthier communities and avert the imminent failure of many banks and businesses.
- Financing: Low cost loans would be made via the Land Bank Fund, a \$200 billion, 0% interest, PPIP- or TALF-like land bank and parkland acquisition fund provided by the nation’s banking system and led by the Federal Reserve, Treasury, and FDIC. The fund would leverage local equity capital.
- Solution: Public-private partnerships would buy distressed properties and remove buildings, using loans from the Land Bank Fund. Part of the land would be turned into a park; the rest would be redeveloped later to retire the loans. Each phase would create jobs and support property values.
- Good for the Economy: Remove bad loans from banks’ books and avoid bank failures. Create jobs in park design, construction, and maintenance. Increase values of businesses and residences near finished parks.

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- Good for the Community: Replace concrete and glass with trees, green space, and cleaner air. Remove eyesores that attract crime and vagrancy. Create space for play and exercise, to combat obesity and poor health. Offer adults a place to garden, gather, and connect with neighbors.

Announcements

- Green Building Subcommittee Meeting, November 4, at 2:00 p.m.
Location TBD
- Lower Utility Bill Forums, November 9 & 10, 2010. Tuesday, November 9th @ UAW Local 7, 2600 E. Connor. Wednesday, November 10th, @ Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, 2080 West Grand Boulevard
- Green Jobs / Green Businesses Subcommittee Meeting, November 15th, 2:00 p.m. Location TBD
- Green Task Force Meeting, November 18, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., Coleman A. Young Center, 13th Floor.
- Water Subcommittee Meeting, November 30th, 2:00 p.m., Metro High Tech, 2727 Second Avenue
- GreenWay – Eliza Howell Park, donated to city