



Minutes City Council's Community Sustainability Committee March 18, 2009

Minutes of the meeting of the City Council's Community Sustainability Committee held on Wednesday, March 18, 2009, 8:00 a.m., in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, Tempe City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Committee Members Present:

Mayor Hugh Hallman
Councilmember Onnie Shekerjian
Councilmember Corey Woods

Committee Members Absent:

Vice Mayor Shana Ellis

City Staff Present:

Lisa Collins, Deputy Development Services Manager and Committee Liaison
Mike Crusa, Mayor's Chief of Staff
Shelley Hearn, Comm Rel Mgr
Jan Hort, City Clerk
Lisa Lathrop, Administrative Asst. II/City of Tempe
Bonnie Richardson, Prin Planner
Chris Salomone, Community Development Manager
Alex Smith, Tech Dev Spec
Mark Vinson, Principal Architect/City of Tempe
Sheri Wakefield-Saenz, Econ Dev
Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Programs Director/City of Tempe
Michael Williams, Building Safety Div

Guests Present:

Dr. Laura Burgis, business owner/resident
Anne Reichman, ASU GIDS – Sustainable Cities Network
John Kane, Architekton
Anne Patterson, HPC
Greg Piraino, Applied Engineering
Pam Posten, PM Posten, LLC
Ted Ritter, VP, IFMD
Brenda Shears, ASU GIDS
Kirby Spittler, Citizen
Denise van den Bossche, US Green Building Council, AZ Chapter

Mayor Hallman called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Approval of Minutes – Community Sustainability Committee – 12/10/08 and 1/14/09; Economic Subcommittee – 2/11/09 & 3/11/09; Code Subcommittee – 2/25/09; Technology Subcommittee – 2/25/09

Motion by Councilmember Shekerjian to approve all minutes listed. Second by Councilmember Woods. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances/Call to the Audience

Anne Patterson, representing the Tempe Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), stated that the Commission feels this committee is very much aligned with what the HPC is attempting to do. The HPC is attempting to save historic neighborhoods. Date Palm Manor has applied to be an historic district and if it is approved, it will be the first historic district that will have been formed since Proposition 202 was passed. Over 90% of the residents want to become a district. Saving the historic neighborhoods is sustaining the old properties.

Councilmember Shekerjian added that one of the action items for the Council's Technology, Economic & Community Development is the historic preservation piece, so someone from the HPC attends that meeting.

Agenda Item 3 – Subcommittee Updates and Review of Work Plans

Economic Subcommittee

Councilmember Shekerjian summarized:

- The subcommittee will look at how to make the City organization sustainable. It is working with the City Manager and the Assistant City Manager to determine the kinds of processes would help to increase efficiency and effectiveness. This will be done while the other subcommittees are working through their issues.
- The subcommittee will perform cost/benefit studies for the items the other two subcommittees want to push forward to this committee. The other subcommittees can focus on the effects and the benefits to the City, and this subcommittee can do analysis in terms of the economics.
- Staff will be pulled in to help Lisa Collins, and additional people from ASU and the business community are being asked to serve on the subcommittee.
- Determining how to make the organization more efficient and more effective with taxpayer dollars is also information that would be helpful to other cities. She has asked representatives of the ASU Business School to also serve on the subcommittee to look at those aspects.

Mayor Hallman reiterated that it involves three touchstones: cultural sustainability so that Tempe retains what is unique about it, environmental sustainability, and the idea that it all has to be economically sustainable. He asked about progress on the work plan.

Councilmember Shekerjian responded that the work plan is outlined in the minutes. The subcommittee is not a gatekeeper to the bigger committee. The subcommittee will be adding another layer of information regarding those touchstones and bringing it back to this committee to determine what should go forward. She suggested that all of the work plans should go to Council together.

Technology Subcommittee

Denise van den Bossche summarized that at the subcommittee's future meetings they will have:

- presentations on global water and auto meter reading
- presentation on the Power Purchase Agreement at ASU for solar.
- presentation on bio-diesel regarding water.
- presentation on recycling.

She added that all of this information will also be presented to the Economic subcommittee.

Lisa Collins added that the subcommittee has assembled a draft of their work plan and the subcommittees have all had an opportunity to look at these and will have another opportunity before it goes to Council. She distributed copies of a draft scope of work to everyone. This will develop the work plan so that the work items, which are more specific, will fall under that.

Code Subcommittee

Councilmember Woods summarized that the subcommittee discussed the fact that if things are too cumbersome in terms of codes, then people won't do them. When people want to do projects that are obviously sustainable in terms of environmental sense, our codes are not going to be so cumbersome as to discourage the project. The subcommittee has only met one time and will meet next week to discuss ideas to move forward to the Economic Subcommittee to determine the economic feasibility of code streamlining processes. Their work plan is ready to go.

Agenda Item 4 – Green Build International Conference and Expo Update

Bonnie Richardson summarized that the Green Building Council is a collection of a variety of different types of memberships. It is a non-profit, volunteer organization and includes everything from architects, contractors, and engineers. It began totally focused on the green building and has exponentially expanded because green products and recycled products need to go into green buildings. It also includes an interest by realtors who are trying to sell or lease green buildings and appraisers, and it is also international. It focuses on the triple bottom line, so economics is always key to analysis of the desired achievement of buildings and projects, and also looks at environmental and social issues as well.

She continued that the Valley is fortunate to have the Green Build '09 come to Arizona. The completion of light rail sealed the deal. The conventions are becoming so large that very few cities will be able to manage this conference in the future. Over 30,000 attendees are expected and additional options are being considered, such as video conferencing to connect people who are unable to travel to the conference. The convention is scheduled for November 11-13, in the Phoenix Convention Center, which is a LEED certified building. When a city is selected for staging the conference, they look at leaving the city more sustainable when they depart. For example, they require food providers to use locally-grown organic produce, and hotels with green programs in place are selected. Because of the light rail, Tempe has a great opportunity to take center stage on this. All of the hotels and many of the tours and events will be scheduled based on access by rail or bus. She serves as chair of the State US Green Building Council. Last year due to the membership growing, they changed from being a sole chapter to a statewide chapter with four branches. Their focus is helping the adjacent communities to get some acknowledgement for what they have done.

The chapter has hired an Executive Director. This was necessary because locating funding in a difficult market is important, and the valley is so spread out. An extensive network does a lot of work on a volunteer basis. More than 1,000 volunteers will be needed day-to-day to make this work. Committees are in place and are working with other groups at ASU and community colleges and many will be training others to assist.

She summarized the national exhibition as follows:

- Green Build will bring 1400 exhibitors and will be the largest exhibition to date.
- Those who sign up for the exhibition hall have typically signed up during the previous conference.
- The local chapter proposes to create a showcase for local businesses and cities, as well. "Countdown to Green Build" will schedule events in neighboring cities, neighborhoods and local businesses to help inform residents about what this is.
- At least 90 educational sessions will be scheduled.

- Over 20 local tours will be scheduled. The selection process is conducted from Washington, D.C., with over 1400 submittals. The Transportation Center was submitted. Other architects who have created buildings in Tempe have also submitted.
- Currently there is a call for submittal of buildings appropriate to be toured.
- Sponsorships are being addressed from \$30K to \$5K.
- A committee is contacting people throughout the region in states that share similar environmental issues to participate. This year, there is also an outreach to Mexico.
- The emphasis is on education and outreach.
- They are developing a "500 mile exposition" because in green building, it is important to purchase supplies within 500 miles to reduce expensive oil and transport and businesses can be showcased even though there aren't in Phoenix area.
- There are community partnerships with non-profits, universities, and governments.
- There will be a hospitality and outdoor experience, with potential location at Chase Field with the possibility of extending it to the community beyond the conference attendees.
- The theme of the conference is "Mainstreet Green – Connecting to the Conversation" with the focus of reaching the local businesses, residential communities, and municipalities.
- The Sustainability Task Force between the cities is working on the effort to share information.
- Whenever the conference goes into a city, they leave a project behind, the "Legacy Project." One of the projects will be using the rights-of-way as an opportunity for solar collection for the community. Another will be a Habitat for Humanity house with a "zero carbon" footprint.
- More information is accessible through "Countdown to Green Build" on the internet/blogs.

Councilmember Shekerjian supported the video conferencing aspect. That is the greenest way to provide information and still be a part of the conference. Is Green Build planning to do that just for this year or for future conferences?

Ms. Richardson responded that this is the kickoff for this approach. She expects it to be used for future conferences. The group is getting so large that it will be difficult to find a city to handle it. There will probably be places at ASU, community colleges, NAU, U of A, and other areas where people could gather.

Councilmember Shekerjian suggested use of Channel 11 to plug in a larger number of people without having to leave home. In the future, this would be a great way to encourage cities overall to reduce their carbon footprint in terms of attending meetings.

Ms. Richardson added that they intended to do that in the Transportation Center Community Room, but the budget didn't allow that for this year. It is available to be retrofitted for that kind of video conferencing in the future, however.

Councilmember Shekerjian asked if they would be providing a list of places that participants could explore on their own.

Ms. Richardson responded that they will have a number of those. Through the national committees, places have been identified that people will want to visit. The hope is to bring in tourism dollars as well both pre-conference and post-conference. A lot of the draw of the conference is the quality of the speakers and presentations. www.USGBC.org will provide additional information on last year's conference.

Denise van den Bossche added that there is an opportunity on You Tube to look at unselected buildings. Tempe is a huge part of this conference, and the Global Institute of Sustainability is also here. At Chase Field, for example, there will be a big name entertainer, and there is the thought to open the bleacher section to ASU students. Tempe doesn't have the convention center, but everything else is here.

Ms. Richardson added the Tempe hotels have been contacted, as well as Community Development staff. An event on April 29th, which will be a kick-off, will be at the Desert Botanical Garden and Mayor and Council have been invited. There is an emphasis to maximize the exposure with many events around the conference.

There was a question if information from the Sustainability Network is available.

Ms. Richardson responded that they are currently working on computer access to that, both for information and for inputting information on what has been learned. Much of the information is already on the USGBC website, but the Network is researching how it is different in the desert environment. It will take awhile to get all of the data input and up to date and it will take a high level of participation by the cities to make it successful.

Anne Reichman added that ASU has a partnership with the Alliance for Innovation and they have established a sub portion of their website which will house the best practices that have been accumulated, not only for ASU but valley cities. Those will be accessible to everyone and that is located within Sustainable WIKI. Access information is currently being formulated, although it is not currently open to the public.

Ms. Collins added that the City of Tempe is also a member of the Alliance for Innovation. She asked if there was a contact or a plan where people can be involved in the tour.

Ms. Richardson responded that on the USGBC website, www.USGBC.org, under the Arizona Chapter, the host committee is listed, which includes the chairs and contact information.

Shelley Hearn asked if the speakers are typically filmed.

Ms. Richardson responded that all of the proceedings are filmed. A potential problem with making it available to everyone through video conferencing is because the conference is a money-making endeavor as well as an educational outreach and they sell the proceedings. She will investigate the boundaries.

Ms. Hearn suggested there might be a way a city could buy the video or the rights.

Ms. Richardson suggested using Channel 11 pre-conference to get information out about what to expect or what pieces someone might want to be involved in. They are promoting Tempe restaurants, etc., by developing a directory and the green restaurants and businesses will be the ones highlighted. Mass transportation is a critical issue.

Ms. Hearn suggested METRO putting information on their site.

Ms. Richardson stated that she would be working with staff to develop information for METRO. The education piece will address those issues.

Kirby Spittler stated that the City Council endorsed the Legacy Project concept some time ago for using the public right-of-ways for solar collection. The revenues from such a project would go into the common sector, maybe to assist affordable housing or to grow the system. When the project was endorsed, it was at the feasibility study stage and when USGBC came with the Legacy Project, they have a grant to fund a pilot project. This project has now become a real project, so there is funding from USGBC as well as endorsements from many valley entities, including METRO, City of Phoenix, Tempe, and it is moving forward with good progress on funding.

Agenda Item 5 – Future Meeting Dates

None were discussed.

Agenda Item 6 - Announcements

None.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Prepared by: Connie Krosschell
Reviewed by: Lisa Collins

Jan Hort, City Clerk