



Minutes City Council's Community Sustainability Code Sustainability Sub-Committee August 21, 2009

Minutes of the meeting of the City Council's Community Sustainability – Code Sustainability Subcommittee held on Friday, August 21, 2009, 9:00 a.m., in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, Tempe City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Sub-Committee Members Present:

Councilmember Corey Woods
John Kane, Arkitekton

City Staff Present:

Lisa Collins, Dev Svcs/Comm Liaison
Jan Hort, City Clerk
Bonnie Richardson, Comm Dev
Mark Vinson, Comm Dev
David McNeil, Pub Wks

Jerry Hart, Financial Svcs
Lisa Lathrop, Dev Svcs
Nancy Ryan, Comm Dev
Michael Williams, Dev Svcs

Guests Present:

Doug Brown, Architekton

Councilmember Woods called the meeting to order at 9:18 a.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Approval of April 17, 2009 minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances/Call to the Public

None.

Agenda Item 3 – Update on Town Lake Water Issues/Full Body Contact

Nancy Ryan stated that currently there are regulatory authorities that prohibit the town lake from qualifying for full body contact at this time. Should Council wish to pursue a full body contact water body, there will be costs associated with that conversion. Special event promoters are billed for events that entail full body contact activities. David McNeil stated that Maricopa County has defined the Tempe town lake as a 'semi artificial bathing place'. If Council were to increase water activities whereby body contact is incorporated, security, ph levels, liability, algae growth, restroom/changing facilities and several other factors will affect the increased costs associated with maintenance/oversight.

David McNeil added that it is possible to cordon off a section of the lake for full body contact activities and focus lake treatments on that portion of the lake; however cost recovery would be highly unlikely for daily swimming activities. Signage that prohibits swimming is currently posted. Staff has discussed the possibility of constructing a public swimming pool adjacent to the lake.

Doug Brown, citizen, commented that there is frustration associated with not being able to touch the lake itself. Having water level access to the lake would improve the experience. Councilmember Woods agreed that making the water more accessible to visitors would be of significant value.

Agenda Item 4 – Building Code Update

Mike Williams handed out the sustainable practices and goals for the Building Safety Division. Council has adopted the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). IECC encompasses residential and commercial building codes. The Home Builders Association has also lent their support to this code publication. There has been a dramatic increase in building permits over the past year, largely due to various incentive programs. Staff is currently working on creating a standard residential plan that applicant's may use as a template which will result in expedited plan review turn around times.

Photovoltaic is a solar energy application incorporated into some building projects. IECC is in the process of developing standard installation details and fee structures so that contractors and consumers have a reasonable level of assurance of the final price tag for this technology. Management endorses requiring building permits for this building application because of the rapidly changing solar energy technology within the construction industry. IECC is currently developing a list of preapproved building materials/methods that helps contractors expedite their projects. One of the facets of this endeavor is to promote green build and sustainability practices. Standardizing methods is the desired outcome. Photovoltaic fees are \$350 and \$150 for solar hot water. Once industry standardization occurs, lowering these fees will be considered.

Bonnie Richardson mentioned the various incentives that some communities offer to convert to solar energy technology. However, there remains hesitancy in converting to this technology for several reasons: unknown payback, up front costs of converting, incentives versus no incentives, etc. Ms. Richardson added that low water use technology might be another way of promoting water conservation; perhaps rebates for incorporating these fixtures should be considered. Habitat for Humanity has instituted a green build mindset.

Councilmember Woods asked if staff has compared other cities policies for these building policies to find out where Tempe stands. Ms. Richardson stated that staff is in the process of compiling policies from other jurisdictions. Lisa Collins also suggested that it would also be appropriate for Building Safety, Engineering and the Police Department to meet to discuss standards for Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) standards.

Agenda Item 5 – Future Agenda Items

- Inventory of what other municipalities are doing regarding green build technology; incentives/rebates; residential and commercial standards
- Cost breakdown to allow full body contact activities at the town lake

Agenda Item 6 – Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for October 23 at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda Item 7 - Announcements

September 17, 2009 – Sustainability Network meeting (working with neighborhood municipalities)

November 11-13, 2009 – Greenbuild – 90 countries participating in seminars and various events

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Prepared by: Kay Savard

Reviewed by: Lisa Collins