

1/6/10 TOSC Citizens Climate Protection Advisory Committee

Regular Meeting:

Meeting called to order at 5 p.m. by chair, Mary Stoecker. Present: Gary Edwards, Connie Downard, Nick Susillo, Jim Kerstetter, Jim Goodkind, Mary Stoecker, Allyson Siwik, Debaura James

Nick S. made a motion for approval of the 12/2/09 meeting minutes with revisions (correct Herbie Marsden's name; add the additional partners to the statement about the Aldo Leopold proposed grant submission.) Gary E. seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Brewer Hill Development: There is no date for a "next meeting" of the advisory group. The group has not met since September '09. The slow down appears to be on the HUD and MFA bureaucratic end. Zoning has been approved, however. Silver City is the 3rd municipality in the country to receive a Hope 6 Grant.

P & Z Solar Land Use code update: The email(s) between Herbie M., David Gershenson., and Dr. Ghassemi were read. Jim G. reported that there is interest coming from LC to create renewable energy districts. Local governmental units could potentially through private banks offer loans for renewable energy improvements for homes and business which could be paid for from assessment taxes, potentially 20-30 year loans. No details available at this point.

He reports that there is some interest by P & Z to require new subdivisions to have a percentage of new housing facing east/west, not shading one another north south.

Nick added that the state is on the verge of becoming a clean-energy state by 2018 and is very eager to get some of these ordinances in place.

Mary reports that research is beginning by P & Z on regulating good-neighbor behavior in neighborhoods using solar energy. Many localities in the state are struggling with creating usable ordinance in this vein. The Committee agreed that our job is to encourage P & Z to do the research to make an informed decision.

EECGB: The holidays seem to have brought things to a bit of a standstill. It is our hope that the county got the County Conservation Strategy submitted by Dec. 31st, but we do not yet have a confirmation. We are awaiting the final approval of the job descriptions so that advertising can begin on the Office of Sustainability positions. The town and city need to collaborate to decide how they will share these new positions. The fiscal agent for this grant may be the county or the joint, county-wide economic coalition, but the positions will report to the town. We are waiting for them to create this agreement before our new employees begin their work creating the Dept. of Sustainability. There is some anxiety that the first reports are due from the county and city. We will be looking at our agreement to make sure that we are in compliance on our work plan. The chair is actively seeking to remedy these problems by constant phone calling.

Allyson suggested that we *can* begin collecting data on county and municipal utility bills for the past year. We have permission from the TOSC and need to seek permission to collect this data from Grant County and the other municipalities. Our Indicator Group will meet again to gather data and give a report to the TOSC at their next meeting. Data gathering based on specific indicators is written into the Town of SC Climate Action Plan. Doug Campion from Community Action Agency will be in Town 1/21 or 1/22 to discuss EECBG integration and partnership with CAA. Plan on 1 hour, those who can meet with him. CAA will train appropriate committee members and Office of Sustainability staff to do the simple home energy audits, referrals, and retrofits. EPA funds will provide Spanish translation and Hidalgo and Luna county outreach for Viva Verde 2010.

RFQ: (Request for Quotes) We need to get things up for the new director to send an RFQ to the performance energy audit contractors to obtain quotes to provide the energy-audits described in the grant. The town has a template for a RFQ. There was some discussion about whether or not to use the town's template or to create our own. Committee decided that we will look both at the town's and Ken Hugh's approach. Nick volunteered to create the bullets that need to be included in the RFQ. The Indicator Group will review Nick's work and both the town's and the Hugh's RFQ models.

Green Jobs : Allyson suggested that we make an effort to get Brendan Miller on a conference call for our Feb. meeting to give our input on distributing the Green Jobs Initiative grant.

Homework: **Mary S.** will continue to try for information and/or a meeting with Alex Brown and Jon Saari about the next steps for EECBG funds/programming. Especially the advertisement of the Director's position and any "reports" that are due...even though we have not begun the work. **Jim K., Allyson S., Mary S. and Nick S.** will meet to organize the data gathering necessary for on-going evaluation and analysis per the Climate Action Plan. **Allyson S.** will try to schedule Brendan Miller for a teleconference with our February meeting.

Next Meeting:

Feb. 3rd at 5 p.m. at GRIP.