

6-1-2011 Mayor's Taskforce on Climate Protection Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. By facilitator, Mary Stoecker. Those present were members Mary Stoecker, Allyson Siwik, Sharman Russell, Denise Smith, Debra James, Frank Drysdale, Sam Castello. Community members: John Crow, Shelby Hallmark, and Cissy McAndrew.

The minutes from the April and May meetings were read for approval, as there was not a quorum in May. Denise Smith made a correction to the April minutes concerning the Office of Sustainability Report. It should read that, as of the April meeting, 350 houses has been weatherized. Denise then made the motion to accept the corrected minutes. Deb James seconded the motion. The minutes for April were approved as amended and for May were approved as read.

Mary introduced a letter she had drafted to the TOS Community Development Department concerning solar rights recommendations from the Task Force. Mary informed the group that she had met with several city officials concerning these issues and was advised to then draft the letter outlining our recommendations. The draft was the end-product of her conversations. The members gave feedback, supporting the letter. Members felt that the town has an obligation to have an educational process in place as more homeowners are affected by an increased interest in utilizing solar energy in their homes. Marcy received comments and will revise the letter. She will then meet with the Community Development Department to discuss our recommendations before they are brought before the Town Council.

Denise gave a report from the Office of Sustainability. There will be a ground-breaking ceremony for the Solar Parking Structure on Friday, June 3, at 4 p.m. They are working on several grants, including one from Freeport/McMoran for a feasibility study for using renewable materials at the mine site.

Allyson presented the Water conservation Recommendations draft which she had revised to reflect updated data received from Jim Kerstetter. The data reflects a 15% deduction in water *pumping* for the town as a result of recent conservation efforts. The recommendations will go to the City Council in the next month. At the same meeting, the Office of Sustainability will be asking for a water conservation resolution, which is necessary in order for them to proceed on a current grant proposal.

Mary presented the Indicator Update, which is a piece of the Action Plan. She outlined some of the decreased energy-use the town is experiencing, which was predicted when the Task Force recommended such changes as LED traffic signals. Some of the data was reviewed and discussed concerning municipal and household water use. It was suggested that a narrative be included concerning some of the water-use data. It was pointed out that we have new baseline data and methodology for determining our natural gas usage. Some figures for electric use were corrected and a new graph will be generated to reflect these corrections. A revised version will be circulated amongst members before presentation to the TOS City council.

Announcements:

Cissy announced for the Green Chamber of Commerce that a Green Appraiser workshop will be held on Wed., June 8th from 6:30 to 7:30 at the Red Barn. The event will evaluate green building materials and stress their positive qualities. The event is free to the public.

Habitat for Humanity will present, "Building Green/Living Green" at the Global Resource Center on June 16th at 6:30 p.m.

The "Think Local/Buy Local campaign is kicking off next week.

The Mayor and the Director of the Office of Sustainability will be traveling to Washington, D.C. For Climate Communities Clean Energy Summit from June 15th to June 17th. It is hoped that they will have the opportunity to network with other like-minded communities and to learn of more relevant grant opportunities.

The Green Jobs Education (EPA) Pilot Project is wrapping up its semester at Aldo Leopold High School. Allyson and Deb will be heading to the NM Career Technologies Education Association conference on June 13th to present the curriculum to interested educators. It is hoped that many schools will use the curriculum and that Green Chambers throughout the state will offer financial support to schools offering the class in the future.

The Gila Community forum has two new columns: Building a Sustainable Home and a GRIP column.

The showing of "Economics of Happiness" in May had a good turn-out. Allyson will be combing over the surveys soon.

The Task Force will be losing three long-time members this month. We currently have ten members and new applicants. Four new members would be ideal. We need to be thinking about a new facilitator and meeting location. Mary will create an agenda for the July meeting, but wishes to hand over the facilitatorship at that meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debaura James