

7-21-11 TOS Climate Protection Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by chair Mary Stoecker at 5 p.m.

Members present: Linda T., Pete B., Frank D., Deb J., Jim G., Denise S., Mary S.

Guests present: Nick S., Laura Ramnarace, Joe Riley, John Crow, Chuck Fuller.

Frank made a motion to accept the Minutes from June 1, 2011 and Denise seconded the motion.

Some discussion on how the Freeport McMoRan grant is coming along (a grant to NREL/EPA for a feasibility study on use of brownfields sites ... reclaimed mining sites.... for renewable energy developments). Per Denise --- may hear something in September.

Voted on motion to accept the June minutes: passed

There was a brief discussion on the progress of the Freeport McMoRan grant (a grant to NREL/EPA for a feasibility study on use of brownfields sites, reclaimed mining sites, for renewable energy developments). Denise Smith may hear something in September.

Nick gave an Office of Sustainability report. The piers for the solar parking garage should be poured by Tues. or Wed. of this week. From that point, it goes very fast and will be done approximately two weeks following the pour. The dedication will be scheduled two weeks following completion. The office is working on a Water Conservation Planning Grant. Nick is finalizing a three-way agreement between the PRC, PNM, and Solar Power Partners for selling electricity back to the grid from the solar array site newly built at the Waste Water Treatment facility. The energy savings is in final negotiation and the savings are extremely worthwhile. It's expected that the city will save \$2M over twenty years from this project. Nick distributed a draft of an Adaptation Outline for Silver City, "Focus: Hotter and Drier". He pointed out the implications of area climate projections and the adaptations necessary.

Mary has been attempting to visit with the City Planner, Peter Russell, to finalize our recommendations to the town in terms of providing information to people who are preparing to build or remodel so that they are educated on their Solar Rights. Peter has a draft in hand and this meeting will edit and revise the draft to make a final recommendation.

Following the Clean Energy Summit held in DC which he attended with the mayor in June, the mayor has charged the task force with discussing the direction of our group in the upcoming months. Attendees' statements on issues areas they would like to see the Climate Group focus on over the next "x" period of time:

(all understand that this list will have to be winnowed down considerably and either a set of recommendations (addendums to the Action Plan) or a set of action steps developed for each chosen area of focus)

- Food/sustainability
- Green jobs
- Adaptation concepts/transition concepts
- Understanding of "real" cost/benefit ie) exact cost of solar
- Resource conservation

- The Wallet ... what is the economic advantage to suggested changes. Budget
- Impacts/outcomes that will assist those who have the least
- Local government and public education strategies .. aggressive
- Especially aggressive local government and staff(TOSC) education and conservation techniques to address issues such as fuel waste, insulation and other building improvement measures, water faucets, etc.
- Use promotion/marketing more effectively
- Concentrate on savings that are possible and can be proven ie) focus more on the public buildings than personal residences
- Standards and benchmarks for high school curricula on sustainability, green concepts, actions, adaptation, etc
- Formation of an “adaptation subgroup” to make a Recommendation another addendum to the TOSC Climate Action Plan (as recently we did a Water Conservation recommendation)
- Local commerce: growing, rail lines, recyclables, etc. as fuel (esp. diesel) costs rise
- TOSC: more efficient, fair and budget conscious fees ... for rate payers and environment (water, garbage, other franchise fees)
- Thought: merge the Recycle Committee and the Climate Committee ... integrated set of solutions? Pros and cons need to be looked at. Mayor needs in on discussion.

Mary is stepping down as chair and as a member of the committee. The group praised and thanked her for her dedication to this group. She advised the group from her place of experience on proceeding by supporting the Action Plan and not to grow tangential. There was discussion about creating a strategy for informing the elected leaders of the community, which included having more key players with the city (managers of various town departments) attend the Climate Protection meetings.

Future location of the meetings was discussed. Deb James offered her classroom at Aldo Leopold High School. That site was approved.

Leadership of the task force was discussed. Nick suggested rotating leadership, at least until we arrive at full members. (Four more members are needed.) The group agreed and drew a member’s name to facilitate the next meeting. Peter Burrows will facilitate.

A meeting date and time were discussed. The first Wed. of the month is the usual time. The group agreed to meet again on Sept. 7th at ALHS.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Debaura James, sec’y