

Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement Citizen's Advisory Committee

2-1-2012 TOS Minutes

Members present: Linda Thompson, Denise Smith, Peter Burrows, Shelby Anderson, and Debraura James. Guest: Hugh Epping and Nick Susillo.

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m.

The minutes of the last meeting were read. Denise made the motion that the minutes be approved as read. Peter seconded. The minutes were approved.

Linda summarized for the committee that the subcommittee which was to measure the indicator updates. The subcommittee will meet this month at a time TBA so that our report is ready by June.

Linda introduced some material she gathered from the city of Phoenix to use as a model for educational materials to be made available for energy savings and sustainability. She will give these models to the Office of Sustainability to fashion some educational materials to make available at the Chamber of Commerce and other public locations. Denise said the materials would be considered, but that manpower and funds are limited at the Office of Sustainability which might limit their ability to work on getting educational materials out to the community. She also informs us that she receives a great deal of material from ICELY (United Nations) that is informative. They hand out these materials when they have public events. Information is available on rebates as well. Shelby updated Denise that we had a discussion at the previous meeting about adding to our Action Plan more community education, which is why these materials is being shared with the Office. Denise responded that there is a specific grant available from the Funders' Network that might address educating the community under a larger umbrella called "Sustainability Marketing". She offered to write the grant. Debraura James offered beginning to organize these materials to address this Action Item. August 2nd begins the next funding cycle. There was some discussion regarding other grant possibilities.

Shelby asked about the status of funding of the Office of Sustainability. Denise reported that the city has been very supportive of the work done by the office and has appreciated the revenue and completed projects that the Office has brought into the city. Three of the Office's employees are now on the city's payroll. Unless more funding comes available, there will be a reduction in staff.

Linda reported on the EPA Study to the feasibility of the Chino site for solar arrays. The EPA did identify this site along with another in Deming for a study. There will be a visit from the EPA and the National Renewable Energy lab (NREL) on March 5th to assess the feasibility of constructing a solar array at one of three areas of the Chino mine. Chino has indicated a willingness to allow their power plant at one of the sites to transmit the electricity generated perhaps in the mining district, but certainly into the general grid. This could help offset citizen's utility costs in these low-income communities. Freeport's involvement would be a public relations initiative rather than meeting any of their own energy needs. It fits with a goal of the organization to look ways to support communities surrounding mining operations to assist with renewable energy. Once the EPA and the NREL authorize the most appropriate site, funding will have to be acquired to construct the array. Nick Susillo arrived in time to pick up the report. He informed the group that the mayors will be working with Freeport and the Office of Sustainability to move this project forward. We were one of 26 contaminated mine sites to be considered for such a project. A community meeting to discuss this project will be held March 5th after the site visit by EPA and NREL. DOE, USDA, and Freeport-McMoran are all possible funders of such

a project. The proposed program promises to be a win/win situation for the mine and nearby communities. This proposed project would be several years in completion. Nick fielded questions from the community and the committee members, including the size of the array and to what it could supply power. The report of feasibility could be completed as early as July, 2012. Once the study exists, Nick believes there is a good chance to get federal support for such a project. The community meeting will be held at 6:30 pm March 5th at the Bayard Community Center. All members were asked to attend.

Shelby asked about the progress of the Power Purchase Agreement with our wastewater solar array. That agreement will be presented at tomorrow's Town Council meeting. It will be up for approval on Feb. 28th. The current price will be 6.9 cents per kilowatt hour (as opposed to 12 cents). The aggregate savings to the town over twenty years will be over \$2 million. As an aside, Denise reported that our solar carport is not just supplying some of the electricity to the Visitor's Center but the center is receiving a check from PNM!

There was a reminder about the Tucson meeting on Feb. 13th.

Denise reports that she is completing three applications to "Water Smart" for smart irrigation system, meters at the town's water booster stations, and one for highly efficient pump-boosters at the water booster stations.

The Adaptation Subcommittee did not meet this month. Nick is completing the water conservation proposal for the Adaptation Subcommittee's approval so that it could be presented at our next task-force meeting. The Adaptation Subcommittee will meet on Feb. 9th. Nick will email members on the time and place of that meeting. Allyson will be invited.

Linda will contact the members who have not been in attendance.

Debaura announced that ALHS is attempting to send two students to the Economics of Happiness Conference in Berkeley, CA from March 23-25. She is seeking donations to help defray the costs of the students' travel. The students will be shaping and informing their final projects for the academic year around information learned at the Conference. Checks may be payable to Aldo Leopold High School and sent to PO Box 770, Silver City, NM 88062.

There was a brief discussion about bringing the university on board to invite a big name to market sustainability/adaptability to our community. This topic will be on the agenda for the next meeting. Nick will call Dr. Shephard at WNMU to invite him to our next meeting.

Our next meeting be on Tuesday, March 6th.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Debaura James