

## **Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement Citizens' Advisory Committee**

### **4-4-2012 Minutes - Climate Protection Task Force Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. Introductions were made.

Members present: Linda Thompson, Peter Burrows, Shelby Hallmark, Linda Thompson. A quorum was not met.

Citizens present: Jamie Thompson, Nick Sussillo, Michelle Giese, Claire Catlet.

The minutes were read, but because of lack of a quorum, they could not be approved.

Linda explained that she invited citizens present because the committee is seeking involvement from community stake-holders. Michelle Giese presented the “Riverwalk” corridor that several groups including the Grant Co Trails group,.... have been working on. She showed us a short video depicting the work done and the projected plan to have a continuous trail following the town's three arroyos. The plan for the Riverwalk was first approved by the TOS in 1969 and the trails have been increasing in number and length ever since. This plan now includes a safe walk to all schools. Only 5% of our children currently walk or bike to school. Five miles of trail are proposed with 2 completed at this time. This committee was asked to help bring pressure on TOS staff to acquire easement grants through town and to support at City Council to approve access to culverts and to designate the route as a corridor so that we can apply for funding.

Jamie Thompson presented his passion—getting people out walking and biking through Safe Routes to School. 30% of NM's children are obese. Inactivity has increased greatly since the 1960's. However, the same behaviors are being modeled by adults, which means that we have obesity and inactivity problems throughout the population. Jamie has been encouraging the schools, who express concern for this issue and would like to support more children walking to school. A big limitation is traffic congestion near the schools, causing parents not to trust the safety of allowing their children to walk to school. He would like to see organizations that contribute to car traffic congestion near schools to commit to offering incentives to their employees to walk or bike to work. There is also interest in starting an education campaign for walking/biking your kids to school and encouraging teachers and administrators. They have been working with Jose Barrios and Stout walking and biking kids to both schools on a grant. In order to create a lasting program, the adults need to see the physical, financial, social, and psychological benefits of riding or walking to work. Suggestions were made on how to make this program take off.

#### **New Business:**

Nick announced that he and Denise Smith attended “The Power to Prepare” Summit in Tucson. He distributed a publicity piece on this Summit. They focused on increasing heat and some of the realities to which desert citizens must adapt. 120 attended, each sitting with a group of ten at a summit table. Each table was given a different topic. Each group brainstormed their topic and provided input to the large group. This will be followed by the 2012 International conference on Climate Adaptation, which he will attend. 2000 people are expected to attend from around the world. Mary Stoecker will be facilitating a pre-conference meeting so that the group attending will be able to maximize their personal and group enrichment. Attendees may choose an area of focus so that we will all have a piece to put together into a whole. Mary has also agreed to be the person to present to the TOS Council after the conference. There is some confidence that there will be financial assistance available for those on the

task force who wish to attend.

Peter countered some of the data that Nick presented. He brought copies of two articles and would like members to read these to consider the causes of climate change and warns members not to be over-reactive.

Nick and Linda gave a report on the recent City Council meeting at which our Addendum was submitted to our Climate Change Action Plan (CAP). The Adaptation Addendum was accepted and is now part of the CAP. There was a brief discussion.

Deb James reported that the Transition Town Movement is asking for communities who are working on transitioning to submit their report to the Movement so that we can map all of the communities in the world that are working on transitioning. She offered to submit this report. Linda made the motion that Deb have permission to submit our our Climate Action Plan to the May Day of Action. Shelby seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Shelby reported on the "Update" Committee. Shelby announced that his committee would be asking for data to determine how successful some our actions before we "update" the TOS on our status in meeting our goals. They have begun a plan of action for approaching our annual report. There are many items we have completed and some that haven't yet been addressed. The committee is committed to having a draft by the May meeting.

Peter announced that Walmart sends reusable bags made from recycled water bottles. for \$.54

The next meeting will be May 2.  
The meeting was adjourned at 6:36.

Respectfully submitted,

Debaura James