

6-20-2012 TOSC Climate Protection Minutes

Members Present: Linda Thompson, Shelby Hallmark, Denise Smith, Debraura James, members. Nick Sussillo and Tricia Ortiz, guests.

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. By facilitator Linda Thompson.

The minutes from Feb. and March meetings were officially approved in a motion made by Linda and seconded by Denise. The April minutes were read. Denise made a correction of spelling and some minor corrections which were noted and changed. Denise made the motion that the minutes be approved as amended. Shelby seconded the motion. The April minutes were approved as amended.

Tricia Ortiz introduced herself as an employee in the La Vida program with HMS. The work she does with community health seems to interface with the work of this committee.

Old Business:

Linda announced that there has been a recent resignation from this committee, which puts the membership very low. We have two members out of the six existing members who rarely attend. We need to recruit viable members to the task force.

New Business:

Denise gave a report from the 2011 Update ad-hoc committee, which reviewed the existing Climate Action Plan (CAP). A draft was submitted for consideration, which includes a status report on the thirteen specific recommendations in the CAP. Before looking this over, we deemed it important to look at some work that came out of this review, which they called "Status Report on Assessment of Progress on Overall Energy Use". This report reviews the area's energy use, which lacked baseline information about our natural gas usage by both the community and the municipality. Former member, Frank Drysdale, was able to creatively make some estimates, but we aren't sure about the accuracy of the estimates. In addition, the municipality's use of diesel was not recorded for 2011. Shelby is attempting through a variety of sources to untangle the data but is concerned that we will never have accurate enough data to assess our progress. The ad-hoc members reported feeling handicapped in assessing our energy use progress since we don't have some necessary data. The committee then posed their larger questions:

- ▲ Does it make sense to continue to spend a whole lot of energy chasing difficult estimates on overall energy use, or should we simply focus on measuring the success of individual recommendations?
- ▲ If "adaptation" becomes the new watchword, are CO2 reduction measurements less relevant?
- ▲ If we decide we need to continue trying to measure energy use/CO2 outcomes, who is going to do the work? Is the limited energy of this committee best spent on this kind of data analysis, or on seeking to identify and push for acceptance of specific improvement projects, the implementation of which will reduce CO2 emissions and address adaptation challenges?

There was some discussion on these questions and Shelby was lauded for his exhaustive study to uncover the data for this report. The meeting then returned to the ad-hoc committee's original 2011 Update Draft. In order to proceed with measuring progress, the committee first needs to know which form of measurement of energy we want to use into the future: CAPP or ARRA measurement. The Joint Office of Sustainability (JOS) has used the ARRA measurement system in their projects because

it is required for reporting on grants and in any case is more accurate and comprehensive. Even with this inconsistency, the trend seems to show improvement. Shelby made the motion that we use the same methodology as was used in the 2009 Action Plan, the CAPP, for the sake of consistent reporting. Linda seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, in which Shelby made clear that he “ain't doin' it no more” in reference to the cumbersome work of keeping up with a complicated accounting system if we try to use both systems. The motion was approved with one abstention. This choice will make it feasible to continue to record the progress of our overall energy use. *[Editor's note: Following this meeting the dilemma was resolved in a different way, based on a meeting between the ad-hoc 2011 reporting committee and former members of the Mayor's committee. It was decided to stick with the ARRA reporting algorithm and normalize the CAP's baseline and target estimates so that they can be compared to the ARRA statistics.]*

We looked further at the Update Issues for today's discussion as Denise reported from the Draft 2011 Update. Pt. #4 was discussed concerning municipal energy efficiency leading the way for the private sector. The group had proposed in an earlier meeting that we begin setting targets to be established for supervisors/dept. heads who work for the municipality in energy efficiency. It was noted that the group wishes to follow-up on that plan. In several areas of the Action Plan, we have met or exceeded our targets so we are on or ahead of schedule. Areas requiring further attention: Pt. #7 (walkability/greenways) will require a concerted effort from the task-force to push past some obstacles. This proposal has health as well as economic implications to our area. Currently, since only 5% of students walk to school, allegedly due to safety concerns, Tricia suggested that there could be plans put in place by schools to create buddy-systems (matching older kids with younger ones) for encouraging kids to walk or bike to school. Additionally, having off-street pathways/greenways makes pedestrian travel safer, suggesting that whatever this task force can do to remove obstacles to completion of these pathways would serve this end. It was noted that this needs to get into budget planning and our group and our partners (like HMS) can help to give this some weight in City Council. Pt. #8 (Street Lighting) is an area that needs our focus. Joint office of Sustainability (JOS) is already working with PNM to standardize and upgrade the energy efficiency of our street lighting. A pilot project is being considered at PNM's supervisory level. The issue right now is who is going to pay for the pilot project. The group sees this as a foot in the door with PNM to begin addressing this goal. Pts. #10-13 were discussed in regard to which goals we will continue to be able to work on and which are outdated ideas or ones already deemed dead. This review helped the committee begin to see the areas in which we can really begin to move forward. All comments on this draft should go to Denise by June 29th so that she can compile a final draft.

The discussion on the Tucson Adaptation Conference was tabled.

The next meeting will be the 12th of July. At the next meeting we will reset our regular meeting times. It is hoped that the new JOS office (the Old Shamrock) will have a finished conference room by our August meeting.

Shelby made the motion to adjourn. Denise seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debaura James