

7-12-2012 TOSC Climate Protection

Members Present: Linda Thompson, Denise Smith, Deb James, Shelby Hallmark

Community Present: Gerald Schultz (Resource Conservation and Development), Nick Sussillo, Gwyn Jones

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by facilitator Linda Thompson.

The minutes of the last meeting were read. Shelby and Linda made some suggested corrections to the minutes. There was some explanation of the changes/corrections. Deb made the motion to accept the minutes as amended. Denise seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as amended.

OLD BUSINESS:

Shelby and Denise reported on an ad-hoc meeting on June 28th, on the CAP Update Report. (See notes from 6/28 ad-hoc meeting.) As a result of the ad-hoc meeting, revisions were made to the draft report that help to normalize the data from the original Climate Action Plan with subsequent years. The goal is to compare “apples to apples” so that we have the most accurate report as possible when calculating CO2 emissions. They introduced their revised report, called “Summary of Status of Climate Action Plan's Individual Recommendations/Projects”. From this report we are able to see where we are on track to meet CO2 reduction targets and where we still have work to do. Shelby is still working on getting accurate baseline data for diesel use and natural gas consumption by the city, and reported the difficulties in getting data on residential energy use. In the original Climate Action Plan, some goals were set which were not measurable such as education and use of walking and biking trails.

Denise proposed that we present this 2011 report to City Council along with the aforementioned summary. Denise would also like to include the water use and electric use data as addendae. Shelby agreed to create and include a narrative summary for the council which will point out that the Town deserves to give itself credit for meeting some of these targets, but should be mindful that the City Council needs to endorse working on the areas in which we have not made progress. Linda made the motion to accept the ad-hoc committee's report and recommendations to send to the City Council. Deb seconded the motion.

Shelby asked for the group's input on areas of focus for the future. The group agreed to these items: following up on Streetlight plan, creating our greenways, outlawing plastic bags, and energy retrofits. The committee agreed that we should attach the information that in addition to these areas, the committee intends to work on issues of adaptation. Shelby will write the summary and circulate it via email. This is will be presented to the Council on the 4th Tues. of July beginning at 6 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Next steps: Linda summarized the Tucsonon Adaptation Conference. She made the analysis that most countries are markedly ahead of the U.S. in planning for adaptation to climate change, with work being done on the ground to prepare for future changes and to adapt to changes that have already occurred. The Western Adaptation Alliance group out of Flagstaff impressed most of those who attended. Linda recommends that we join their group. She opened the discussion up to others who attended the conference. Denise and Nick took a way the necessity to begin a vulnerability study for our own area to face a hotter and drier climate. The Office of Sustainability identified many resources to help us to make use of the data we collect. Deb interjected that if we do such a study, we use it as a means of community building, offering an opportunity to give a voice to community members which would

inform the adaptation plan our committee would present to the Town Counselors. Shelby is concerned that as a committee, we engage in hard-hitting programs, not spend a lot of time on a study that may end up on a shelf. Nick recommended that we invite the City Manager to a meeting to share what we took from the conference and find common ground in an attempt to get on the same page concerning mitigation as well as adaptation. This discussion was tabled to the next meeting.

Wag-Bag: It was recommended by Linda that we write a letter of support of their efforts. Denise made the motion that we pen a letter of support for this group for their efforts to complete the walkability/bikeability plan they have done a magnificent job in beginning to take to the next TOSC Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan. Shelby seconded the motion. The motion was carried. Linda will pen the letter and circulate for edits/input from the committee prior to presenting it to Michelle Giese.

Linda pointed out the NOAA Satellite and Information Service “State of the Climate in 2011”, which has now made national news. Over half of our country is in extreme drought. Climate Change seems to be becoming a mainstream topic.

Next meeting: The group agreed that the first Thurs. of the month will be our regular meeting. Our next meeting will be on Aug. 9th. It will be held at Aldo Leopold high school.

Denise made the motion for adjournment. Shelby seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Debaura James