

## **Mayor's Climate Protection Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes 11/12/2012**

Members present: Linda Thompson, Jason Burke, Gayle Simmons, Denise Smith, Debraura James, Shelby Hallmark.

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m. by facilitator, Linda Thompson. The minutes of the last meeting were read. Linda corrected the title of the committee. Denise made some typographical and grammatic corrections. On page 2, rather than “Shelby will be prepared...” it should read, “Shelby and Denise”. Shelby made the motion that the amended minutes be approved as read. Jason seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as amended.

Linda welcomed Jason and Gayle, our new members. One more new member, Jeff Hill, is expected to be approved today. She is also hoping that we will acquire a student member from WNMU.

### **Old Business**

Linda brought the proposed plastic bag ordinance back to the attention of the Committee. This ordinance was based on the city of Austin's. The Committee members will take time to review this document before the next meeting. There was a brief discussion, including a comment concerning “exemptions”. It was pointed out that this proposal doesn't state that it is directed toward retail stores and there was concern that we consider private vendors and Main St. merchants. Shelby wanted to clarify that section by approaching some of these vendors to get their feedback, making sure that we're supporting rather than alienating those merchants. It was suggested that this proposal be sent to the Main St. manager, Nick Seibel to get his feedback on the plastic bag policy. Committee members could then follow up with visits to merchants to solicit their ideas. It was also suggested that we approach teachers in the schools to get them on board. Linda noted that “Rise Above Plastics” , a subgroup of the Surf Rider Foundation which is heading up the plastics ban, has a program that teachers can use with their students to educate them on the dangers inherent in our plastic bag use. Doing this preliminary work to coordinate with local vendors, it was agreed, will give the proposal more clout when it is presented to the Town Council. Committee members were asked to take photos and include pictures of local impact of plastic bags. The committee acknowledges that without buy-in from Grant County merchants, the Town Council is likely to get a great deal of pushback on the ordinance. Linda agreed to take everyone's suggestions via email and will modify the proposal to be considered at our next meeting. Denise will approach Mr. Seibel with the proposal. Deb will visit with the manager of grocery stores to give them a heads-up on the upcoming ordinance. Jason will visit the manager of Walmart .

The proposed solar-site in the mining district was discussed. Denise has done a quick review of the draft feasibility study from the NREL (acting with the EPA) enough to read that the three proposed sites are highly recommended for solar production. They recommended a methodology of securing the heavy arrays to the ground that would not penetrate the cap over the tailings, to avoid the possibility of compromising the integrity of the protective cap. The original proposal was to provide power to the grid which in turn would be earmarked to reduce the cost of electricity in the Mining District. The report said that the current NM regulations would need to be changed to accommodate this provision for the Mining District. A final report will be sent to Freeport/McMoran followed by a community meeting to review next steps. Their target was Sept. and this is Nov. Denise will follow up on with NREL to pin them down on the expected date of their final report in an effort to move this along.

## **New Business**

New members were brought up to speed on the goals we have created for the city. The Master Greenways Plan encompasses one of the goals set by the Committee. Shelby gave a brief clarification of the myriad walkability and bikeability trails proposals being orchestrated by several groups, but the first piece, the Master Greenways Plan (which includes components of each group's suggestions) will come up for vote in the Town Council in January. Prior to that Town Council meeting, it was recommended that we draft a letter supporting the Plan to the Mayor. In addition to the Greenways Plan, our outstanding goals include a street lighting plan, plastics policy, retrofitting town facilities, and community education. Each member volunteered for the area upon which they prefer to focus. Denise will give us regular reports on the street lighting progress. Shelby will follow the bikeability/walkability progress. Linda is spear-heading the plastics policy. Deb offered that she has a proposal prepared to initiate the Community Outreach and Education process. Gayle, Denise and Deb have formed a new education subcommittee to work together on the the education piece.

Deb presented her proposal for Community Outreach and Education, a film and discussion series that is inclusive of community experts and informs the public on what is already in process in Grant County in preparedness/resiliency. The proposal will be discussed at an education subcommittee meeting prior to the next Climate Committee meeting. All committee members will take this home and be prepared to discuss the proposal in more detail at the next meeting.

Denise announced that she is learning from Gayle to become a trainer in the Sunchaser program. (NMSEA.org). Gayle has been teaching this program in the schools since 2007, originally as part of GCEC. Denise is interested in expanding our K-12 efforts.

Nick Sussillo is in Santa Fe doing a design review on the solar wastewater treatment center. NRG Solar will break ground in December and complete it a few months later.

Nick has been asked the committee to participate in a Sustainability Plan Task Force that is creating a new Town Sustainability Plan with both short term and long term goals. He will give us a more in-depth report at the next meeting.

Linda has completed a one-year term as facilitator. She is asking members to consider taking over for the next year.

Denise announced that the Water Conservation Plan community-input meeting will be held tomorrow at 2 p.m. at the SC Annex Building.

Next meeting will be on Wed., Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. at the new Office of Sustainability.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debaura James