

Environmental & Franchise Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes, 9/8/11

Present: Michael Halley, Daryn Hamilton, John Revolinski, Jeff Clawson, Scott Timm, Cari Bedi, Dallas Terry, Joel Hirshberg, Robin Sempf, Anna Bruen, Fred Mcelwy, Tracy Vance, Bob Ferguson, Roger Vorhies, Katie Anthony, Rick Ney

Points of discussion

This was the initial meeting for the Alliant Energy Hometown Rewards Committee. Fairfield is the third city in Iowa to be accepted into the Hometown Rewards program, which aims to increase energy efficiency throughout the city. Alliant offers start up funds for project planning followed by funds for marketing the project, and if the majority of the project goals are met a reward pool is dispersed. Many of the project goals can be reached by utilizing existing Alliant incentive and educational programs. The committee's first duty is to formulate a viable project plan by December of this year.

Committee members gave brief introductions, and Katie Anthony of Sebesta Bloomberg and Associates began with a program overview (Sebesta Bloomberg and Associates is a consulting firm hired by Alliant Energy to help guide the project as well as create a baseline for city-wide energy use. They will also help track energy savings over time). The main goals of the program are to reduce energy usage, educate the community, measure energy savings, and create a long-term culture of sustainability. Fairfield Sustainability Coordinator Scott Timm then reviewed Fairfield's existing sustainability practices and laid out some ideas for future projects. Anthony then led the group through an evaluation of Fairfield's Go-Green Strategic Plan's energy-related goals.

Two break-out groups were formed to develop goals in the areas of Community Engagement and Building & Energy Targets. Each group brainstormed ideas on how to fulfill the Go-Green Plan goals as stated, or modify them slightly to better fit the program. Daryn Hamilton presented the goals for the Building & Energy Targets, which included a 10% reduction in energy usage for the FF Waste Water Plant; forming peer groups to inspire energy efficiency; and funding for local energy efficiency training. Michael Halley presented the goals for Community Engagement, which included conducting a city-wide free energy audit blitz; creating workshops for contractors, landlords and homeowners; establishing a presence at a variety of community events; and implementing Alliant's "Living Wise" program in the middle school. All of these ideas are preliminary and will be developed further at future meetings.

The group then brainstormed ideas for community projects that could be funded with the award monies. It was agreed that it should be a very public project, something highly visible that will educate and inspire the whole community. Ideas included a renewable energy installation on the square or at the convention center. All possibilities will be discussed as part of the project planning stage.

The schedule for future meetings was discussed but not set. Timm suggested meeting every two weeks through December to complete a fully formulated plan. Future meetings will be kept to a one hour maximum. The group decided that the first official order of business is to hire Anna Bruen as part-time project administrator. Timm will work with city administrator Jeff Clawson on the details of the hiring process.

Respectfully submitted by Michael Halley