

Go-Green Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 1
7:00 p.m.

Members (those present designated by *)

- *Johann Berlin (Sustainable City Solutions)
- *Detra Dettmann (USDA-NRCS/Pathfinders RC&D)
- *Brian McDonald (Ambient Control Systems)
- *Fred McElwee (Fairfield Community School District)
- Bob Ferguson (Shacklee)
- *Lonnie Gamble (MUM, Sustainable Living Department)
- *Martha Norbeck (C-Wise)
- *Todd Reifsteck (Dexter-Apache Company)
- *Stuart Valentine (Iowa Progressive Asset Management)
- Sonia Vera (MUM, International Admissions Counselor)
- *Roger Voorhees (Schaus-Voorhees Construction)
- *Staci Wright (Fairfield High School)

Others present

- *Scott Timm, Sustainability Coordinator

Meeting called to order by Stuart Valentine at 7:10 p.m. at the Jefferson County Extension Office.

Meeting began with introductions of commission members.

Committee reports:

Timm reminded that part of purpose to committees is to come up with concrete projects that the public can plug into.

- **Awards and Celebrations:** (Timm) Ideas to give out an annual award, bigger deal. Another thought is smaller awards for notable things that are done. Another idea is scholarship award to get high school students involved.
- **Communications/Media Relations:** No report.
- **Energy Efficiency (Commercial & Residential):** (Berlin) Priority one is financing of retrofits. Has been some talk of extending the cultural districts to get below prime loans for energy efficiency installation at homes (including low income). Will continue this dialogue with banks. Priority two is need to develop some generic standards and a pre-made contract for contractors and homeowners. Maybe look at Iowa Energy Council for sample contracts. Norbeck stated that a lot can be accomplished at the very basic level such as caulking, changing light bulbs, shower heads, etc. (walk before we run). But do people know where or how to caulk? Alliant will offer free energy audits, but it's not heavily promoted. Is there a way to tap into stimulus money for these programs?
- **Fundraising:** Norbeck suggested we see if there are people that have been through the grant training at the library that want to help look for grants as well, when we get to that point.

- **Green Economic Development/Investments:** (Valentine) Calvert group has received \$190 million and put surplus above 3% return to create revolving loan funds available to people to install energy efficiency technologies in their homes. In order for a community to get involved, a community needs to generate more than \$50,000 in investment capital. This is doable for Fairfield and Valentine will continue to look into it.
- **Land Use/Water Quality Issues:** No report.
- **Populations in Need (Underserved Populations (Low income/Latin American/Elderly):** No report.
- **Public Policy:** No report.
- **Renewable energy projects in Fairfield:** (Gamble) Goal is to do some sort of community scale project. Two projects coming up are residential solar and wind power system coming on line and a hybrid renewable system next to where the Big Green Summer is held.
- **Schools & Education:** No report.
- **Wellness and Local Food:** (Dettmann) Initial meeting was held last week. There is a lot happening with Buy Fresh Buy Local and the Jefferson Wellness Action Coalition. We will continue to work with those existing efforts and report back to the Commission.

Needs identified and project ideas:

- Local energy audits (people certified to conduct them)
- Americorps – Green Corps
- Promote the little things that everyone can do...but collectively makes a difference
- Long term—wind garden project
- Energy management plan for the City

Green Business Council: Green Business Council met last Wednesday for the first time. They will continue to try and grow interest from the business community. If interested in getting involved with Green Business Council, contact Scott Timm or Ken Ross.

Wind garden project: Valentine reported on a project involving small turbines and attaching to specific locations where you displace energy use (i.e. 10 cents per kwh tied into the hospital) compared to wind farm that generates at rate of 2-3 cents per kwh. This is still in the prototype phase, but we will keep our eye on it.

Status of IEO Grant: City did an energy audit in April and had list of improvements to be made. Cost to make improvements \$500,000, payback at rate of \$100,000 per year in energy savings. City was to pay \$50,000 for stimulus grant. Grantors asked City to up it to \$320,000. City said no. Alliant will kick in \$100,000 and now Ways and Means recommending city council raise city contribution, vote on Friday. Projected energy savings is \$1.5 million over 20 years (if energy prices were to stay the same). Biggest users of energy is water and sewer department. Roosevelt Rec Center is projected to save 46% reduction in energy prices. Total budget in 2008 was \$500,000 for the city utilities.

Local Processing: Bob Ferguson and Dean Goodale are discussing regional processing of grains. It's hard to market organic corn right now. Gamble suggested Paul's Grains as a resource. They will continue working on this idea.

Goal setting:

By Jan 1:

- Every committee meets and develop priority list and objectives
- Media work – education and community work (utilize FPAC)

By 1st quarter 2010:

- Fully functional website
- Low income housing funding SEIDA
- host series of trainings in the community (builders, contractors, homeowners...)
- Agreement with Alliant for energy data – ongoing documentation/monitoring/baseline data

By June 2010:

- Community scale project
- Hometown rewards with Alliant: yes or no OR community efficiency project to prepare for winter 2010

Website status: Berlin reported that grant money was received to get a website up and going. He researched other websites and chose attributes they liked. They took bids and got two back. \$6,500 is the grant amount. It will be done in Wordpress so there is low overhead for administration. The group voted to accept the bid from the firm that will provide more services for the \$6,500.

Lunch with Scott:

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 5 at 7:00 at the Jefferson County Extension Office.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by Detra Dettmann