

**CITY GREEN TASK FORCE
MEETING January 14, 2010
Approved Minutes**

Members Present:

Harvey Hathaway
Patti Lodge
Michelle Parenti
Ira Raab
Louise Reed
Harriet Sacher
Carol Shein
Al Vazquez, Chair

Staff and Commissioners Present:

Penni Redford
Suzanne Schluter

Call to Order/Sign In/Changes to Agenda

- Meeting was called to order at 4:12 PM.

Minutes

- *Harriet Sacher made a motion to approve December 17, minutes as submitted and revised. Patti Lodge seconded the motion. All were in favor.*

Unfinished Business

- **Review of Environmental Groups Outcomes**
 - The lists from the Focus Areas of the Environmental Groups meeting were prepared and distributed to the Task Force. The question asked of the Task Force was to prioritize the most important items from each list.
 - Chairperson Al Vazquez read the priorities given by the Task Force members who had given their priorities in advance. The points below were agreed on as the Task Force's main priorities in each area.
 - Air: Aggressive urban forestry; Vehicle idle policy; Bio-diesel promotion - make e85 diesel available; Ban combustion engine leaf blowers; Robust indoor air quality standards; Robust energy efficient building standards.
 - Waste: Plastic shopping bag ban; Opt-in or opt-out of receiving printed telephone books; Electronic waste management; Deposit for plastic water and soda bottles; Recycling for City events; Styrofoam recycling and promoting using other materials especially for restaurants such as Green Restaurant Association; Compost restaurant waste.
 - Water/Storm Water: Allow irrigation cisterns and financially incentivize rain barrel use and irrigation quality water, and Develop Bioswales; Prevent discharge of vegetation into water bodies; Retrofit existing point source storm drains to allow for pre-treatment; Assess impact of boats on water quality – policy for monitoring boats for their capacity for creating water pollution.
 - Land Use and Smart Growth: Expedited permitting for sustainable development; Improve and increase mass transit service and promote

walkability and bikability within the City; Implement a rooftop garden program to be partially implemented by the City; Promotion of urban farming, Require an energy performance analysis for existing and new buildings; Work on initiatives to encourage or require reflective (or white) roofs; Require green buildings and promote quantifiable green building standards at the State level; Create funding mechanisms for renewable energy strategies, energy efficiency strategies and water reduction strategies; Increase the use of pervious surfaces treatments like pervious concrete: Adopt Florida friendly landscaping guidelines in code; Promote pocket natural areas.

- Urban Agriculture and Open Space: Urban agriculture: green jobs; Partner with various agencies; Pocket parks; Urban gardens – other area examples; Don't allow removal of vegetation not necessary for the development if a site; Set a goal- include green spaces to reduce 90% of green house gases; Include wildlife corridors and areas around development/request the development process; Allow some regulated number of backyard egg laying hens and honey bees in individual backyard gardens; Preserve, create, protect, and promote wildlife habitat in open spaces and backyards; Require littoral plants on all created water bodies.
- Education: Citywide supported environmental education program for all ages/areas/groups- utilizing all media; Lifestyle audit: sustainability of residents - promote a green cultural change; Improve education for building community on green strategies. Require computer-based environmental training and testing for building department staff and for those seeking permits; City to get involved in offering free energy audits to residents as part of learning process, provide free workshops on conducting an energy/water audit, provide other resources/ contact information; Build an education/recognition component into all City funded projects highlighting sustainable activity; ex: Make it a requirement for contractors/vendors to report on and promote sustainable activities and CO2 reduction; may be signage, interactive touch screens, etc.; Require all City staff to attend sustainability training; Public service announcements; Utilizing water bills and FPL bills to disseminate information; Involve City businesses in greening their offices and/or businesses (ICLEI Green Office Challenge); Provide incentives through awards, recognition, prizes; Diversify educational programs delivery-hands-on, workshops, lectures, etc.- utilize all media including TV 18 – as people learn in different ways; Form partnerships with local educational/conservation institutions to promote sustainability.
- Discussion Points:
 - Recycling at large events can be very problematic. This could be a great new green business opportunity.
 - The Clean Marina gave a presentation in August 2008. What was the outcome of that?

- Point-of-use water filtration is considered by some to be the best method.
- Changing sprinkler heads to new technology can make a 70% reduction in the amount of water used – could be done on golf course and all public areas that are watered.
- The new Urban Farms Magazine is a great resource.
- **Urban Agriculture and Community Gardens Subcommittee Update – Michelle Parenti**
 - How urban agriculture and community gardens can promote sustainability and offset carbon:
 - Promotes greenery, decreases fossil fuel consumption by decreasing the miles food travels to the plate, increases foods available, increases food security, promotes healthier community by promoting eating more fruits and vegetables.
 - Thanks were expressed to Charles Wu and Linda Mia Franco for their help. They were applauded at the last subcommittee meeting.
 - The subcommittee is in the process of suggesting additions and revisions on topics such as liability; irrigation and use of cisterns; environmental assessment; the parameters of farm/garden inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, weed killers, and insecticides; sale of surplus products from non-commercial gardens, taxing issues, prohibitions of livestock animals which includes bees, chickens, etc.; and issues of signage for commercial urban market gardens.
 - We have a good outline or template document. It is one of the most comprehensive documents out there. Municipalities using the same language were noted. The document is divided into community gardens which are non-commercial only and urban agriculture – commercial only. Currently we are discussing whether organic fertilizers only will be allowed.
 - Landowners will be required to apply for a permit to have a community garden. They would receive a packet of information. This could include information on waivers or riders to an insurance policy. Depending on what type of garden/agriculture is planned, other permits, such as irrigation, may also be needed.

New Business

- **Task Force Final Report Discussion**
 - Chair, Al Vazquez stated that he sees bringing the City to a more sustainable place as a three leg process: 1) The carbon analysis for the whole City, 2) The aspirations of the community, the Task Force's final document, how the Task Force recommends promoting sustainability, and 3) The analysis of what we want (the aspirations of the community as reflected in the Task Force's final document), where we are now (the city's carbon analysis), and how to get there (the City's final sustainability plan including programs and metrics)
 - The Task Force has been working towards this final document, but also giving recommendations along the way. However, the City has not been acting on

those. Some of those recommendations are no longer valid. The City has been waiting for a full document as some of the recommendations could invalidate others. . All valid recommendations will be included in the final document.

-
- The Coconut Creek, FL plan that was emailed out to the Task Force members will be used as a template for our plan. This plan includes a narration on a theme, then action items on that theme, and a scorecard.
- Al Vazquez mentioned that the Task Force would work on the final report during the month of March and bring the draft to the April 1st meeting for discussion and vote.
- Penni Redford mentioned that the E4 Summit would be on April 17, at the Kravis Center. The City would like the Task Force's recommendations to be part of the Green Print that will be unveiled at the Summit. The sooner you can give your report, the better. April 1st would be cutting it very close. We know it will be only a draft. The Green Print unveiled at the Summit will be a draft. Once it's flushed out more, it will be given to the Commission and Mayor, and probably vetted through some departments. Ultimately the City Commission will adopt it and implementing it will be beginning to change the processes to reach the goals along the timeline included in the Green Print. It will be a living document. The scorecard you include may not be the same scorecard that the City will ultimately use, but the City will be filling out some kind of scorecard. The Task Force is setting the tone and the priorities and giving the City what the stakeholders feel are the most important things to include in the plan.
- **Final Topics/Presentation Needs**
 - The final reports from the Urban Agriculture and Community Gardens Subcommittee and the Green Building Subcommittee will be given.
 - Green Jobs can be discussed along with education.
 - Steve Kairis of Evergreen BioConcepts, Inc. offered to do a presentation on what different green jobs, education, and grants are available. What the City can do to promote green jobs.

Public Comments

- David London: Friday, January 15, Speaker Brian Clement from Hippocrates Institute will be speaking at Mounts Botanical Gardens at 10:15 am for Arbor Day.
- Ira Raab introduced Tyler Rambo, student from Northwood University who will hopefully be working with Sustainability and this committee as an intern.
- Al Vazquez – Al will send out links for groups to help and donate to Haiti.
- Steve Kairis, of Evergreen BioConcepts, Inc., mentioned that they, in cooperation with the Green Energy Council, have sent ten Eco System desalinators to Haiti.

Future Meetings

- Next meeting: January 21, 2009, 4-6 PM, Planning Area, 2nd Floor

Adjourn

- ***A motion was made to adjourn and seconded.*** Hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 6:22 PM.