

**CITY GREEN TASK FORCE  
MEETING December 17, 2009  
Draft Minutes**

**Members Present:**

John DeCarion  
Harvey Hathaway  
Patti Lodge  
Arnold Rimm  
Janet Schreiber  
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 4:07 PM.

**Minutes**

- *Patti Lodge made a motion to approve November 19, minutes as submitted. Carol Shein seconded the motion. All were in favor.*
- *Patti Lodge made a motion to approve December 3, minutes as submitted. Arnold Rimm seconded the motion. All were in favor.*

**Unfinished Business**

- **Environmental Focus Groups Issues Prioritization** – Penni Redford thanked everyone who participated in the December 3, City Green Task Force Environmental Group Meeting. She requested that all Task Force members look at the focus area summaries that were emailed and prioritize those issues and send them to [sustainability@wpb.org](mailto:sustainability@wpb.org) by January 4. The lists will be emailed again for your convenience and your priorities will be compiled for discussion at the next meeting.
- **Transportation**
  - **Electric Car Chargers**
    - DOE Grant Charging Station Discussion – Penni Redford
      - Part of the EECBG will be used toward putting electric car chargers throughout the City to encourage the public to take advantage of the technology that will be coming out in the upcoming years. It is predicted that 80% of a vehicle's charging will be done either at home or at the person's workplace, however, there need to be some chargers available in the vicinity. Andy Kinard will explain how the chargers work. Afterwards, I'll ask the Task Force members about their recommendations of general locations to put the chargers.
    - Andy Kinard, Car Charging, Inc.
      - Several electric or plug-in hybrids are out or will be coming out within a year or so, such as the Tesla, Nissan Leaf, Fisker Automotive Karma,

and Chevy Volt. Through the EECBG grant we are selling chargers to the City.

- They will look similar to a gas pump and chargers are standard for all types of plug-in cars. With a special key you can open the charger and charge your car. The charging will be by 220V charging. Car Charging Inc. wants to put chargers in very visible locations during the next year. We want people to get used to seeing them so that they will be more likely to purchase the electric vehicles. Owners can look on-line at Mychargepoint.net to find out where there is a charger and if it is currently in use. Owners can provide input as to where chargers should be added.
- Some people do not have garages and will be reliant on public chargers.
- Car Charging Inc. will install the chargers, charge people for their use and give the City a percentage of the revenues. Customers will be able to pay by credit card or check. There is a variety of charging program options. Electricity cannot be resold, people will be charged for sessions, similar to a prepaid phone card with different payment schedules.
- Charging times will depend on the type of car. A plug-in Prius won't take very long. A Leaf will take 4 hours at 220 volts or all night at 110 volts.
- Question: Have you thought about what the Danes are doing, having the charging done directly on the countrywide grid and use of the electricity stored in these car batteries as part of the country's stored electricity? Answer: These things are being discussed. It is called B2G. The chargers are B2G compliant, however, the batteries are very expensive, and they don't want the first ones to be B2G.
- Question: Could the electricity be from a renewable source? Answer: Absolutely.
- Target was recommended, but that is a private company and we're looking for public locations.
- Parks and nature centers would be good places as it promotes getting people out in nature and an educational component can also be provided to the public.
- Comment made that even though people don't usually use a full tank of gas in a day; people are concerned about the range of electric cars. There needs to be a culture change.
- The comment was made that the technology to make batteries that can be charged quickly has been around for many, many years. This is true, but to charge quickly makes a huge draw on the electric grid and this is not good for the grid.
- Locations that were mentioned were: Condos, apartments, parks, shopping centers, government offices, schools, city garages, colleges and universities, City Place, beach parks.

## **New Business**

- **Sustainability and the Public Realm**

- David Barth, Glatting Jackson Kercher Anglin, Inc. gave a presentation on how we can make environmental, economic, and social changes towards sustainability to the public realm, which accounts for approximately 30-40% of the land mass of the community. It will also affect many citizens and provide examples and catalysts for changes in the private sector. Presentation attached. Discussion points:
  - There are many empty lots in West Palm Beach. We could have passive parks, but we need to make sure that native vegetation is planted.
  - Question: Palm Beach County has just authorized an RFP for TOD around the Tri-Rail. Might you be participating in this project? It seems like a great opportunity to do some model environmental things. Answer: It's possible that my company may be participating, but the more important question is: Does the City of West Palm Beach have codes, etc. in place to ensure that any private company will be required to make the project sustainable?
  - Examples of projects were brought up where things could have been done more sustainably if codes and lists of requirements had been set up before projects started and if oversight was more thorough. David Barth mentioned that codifying and building consensus about what is important to us are going to help us move towards a more sustainable future.

- **Bioneers**

- Barry Benjamin, B.E.S.T, showed a DVD of Brock Dolman's presentation at a Bioneers conference. Bioneers is a non-profit educational group that collects and highlights breakthrough solutions for restoring people and plants. Among other venues of dissemination of information, they have a conference each year, which is video linked, and therefore, is the largest environmental conference in the world. Brock Dolman's speech was focused on watersheds and that it will be increasingly important to keep them healthy in order to survive.  
Barry Benjamin mentioned that he hopes to be able to continue to present these types of speeches, as Bioneers have many available, and continue these types of conversations in the City of West Palm Beach.
  - Chairperson Al Vazquez posed the question: What are our watersheds in the City and are they protected?

## **Public Comments**

- Everglades Canoe Expedition Ceremony at Grassy Waters Preserve, January 7 from 4-6 PM was announced.
- Laurel Robinson: Enjoyed water presentation. Would like the Task Force to consider making a recommendation to the City that could save a lot of water. When you rehab a building and increase the value by more than 50%, you are required to install an irrigation system that uses potable water. The City could eliminate this easily, by taking this out of the planning code.

- David London: Announced the new certified Urban Permaculture Design Course at Miami Earth 'n Us, six consecutive weekends starting January 9 & 10 – February 13 & 14, website: permacultureguild.us
- Kristy Moyer: Is City looking into water catchment and cistern use and retrofitting for cistern use? Answer: Yes, but if you have additional ideas or information, please email us at sustainability@wpb.org.

### **Future Meetings**

- Next meeting: January 14, 2009, 4-6 PM, Flagler Gallery

### **Adjourn**

- ***A motion was made to adjourn and seconded.*** Hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 5:56 PM.