

**CITY GREEN TASK FORCE  
MEETING August 6, 2009  
Approved Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Robert Cannellos  
Harvey Hathaway  
Michelle Parenti  
Ira Raab  
Janet Schreiber  
Al Vazquez

**Staff and Commissioners Present:**

Commissioner Muoio  
Neil Melick  
Patrick Painter  
Penni Redford  
Peter Robbins  
Suzanne Schluter  
Daniel Roberge  
Sean Samuels  
Denise Malone  
Doug Wise

**Call to Order/Sign In/Changes to Agenda**

- Meeting was called to order at 4:10 pm.
- Agenda changes were as follows: Mark White from Final Flat Roofs was not able to attend; his presentation will be moved to the next meeting, August 20. Two items were added to New Business, 1) Community Gardens and 2) Information on the movie "Fresh" by member Michelle Parenti.

**Minutes**

- ***Ira Raab made a motion to approve the 7/2/09 minutes as presented, Janet Schreiber seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***
- ***Ira Raab made a motion to approve the 7/16/09 minutes as amended and corrected, Janet Schreiber seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

**Unfinished Business**

- **Housekeeping**
  - **Email handouts/information if at all possible**
    - Penni Redford reminded members and others wanting to share information with the Task Force, whenever possible, to provide it in electronic form to sustainability@wpb.org.
  - **Audience Participation**
    - Penni Redford also mentioned that there is increasing audience participation that is very valued. In an effort to provide accurate and useful information back to public and members, we would like the Task Force to have their discussion on an issue and then the chairperson will call upon those in the audience to give their input. We request that participants from the audience state their name when recognized by the Chairperson.
  - **City Green Task Force Rules**



- **Water Conservation Recommendations**
  - The question was raised at the last meeting of how communities and HOA's will respond if the City makes recommendations about water conservation, including use of cisterns. Commissioner Muoio did some research and talked to City attorneys and found that unless the ordinances or codes are changed, communities and HOA's in particular will still be able to ban certain conservation practices, for example cisterns.
  - Commissioner Muoio suggested that the Task Force word their water conservation recommendations to request ordinance changes whenever possible along with incentives, etc. She suggested that the recommendation, state a goal of 50% water use reduction, for example, and give suggestions. Then the City (staff, Commission, etc.) can study the best way to make changes to ordinances and offer incentives to reach the goal.
  - Pat Painter mentioned that cisterns were in use back in the 50's and there might be some impediment that we are not aware of.
  - The Office of Sustainability will look at the water recommendations and add requests for changes in ordinance or code where possible. We will also add grey water language, make sure it is explicitly noted that we are recommending cisterns for irrigation and not potable water, and bring recommendations back to the Task Force for approval.
- **Green Building**
  - **Task Force recommendations**
    - Task Force was to send recommendations to the Office of Sustainability, if CGTF is not ready to made recommendations, what else do we need to learn first?
    - Robert Cannellos recommends that a nationally accepted standard is decided upon and that CGTF recommends that standard or equivalent, for example, "LEED silver or equivalent".
    - Doug Wise, WPB Construction Services Director, also recommends keeping it open, don't mandate only one standard.
    - Robert Cannellos agreed to work with Doug Wise on criteria that we would like the State to adopt and a mechanism to lobby the State to make more stringent state mandates. Possibly through City's lobbyists or a letter from City Commission.
    - The Task Force will work on things that can be done voluntarily.
    - Robert Cannellos will bring draft or approved copy of House Bill 7135 Florida Energy Bill to the next meeting to present to CGTF. Task Force can then decide if they would like to make a recommendation to the Mayor to support this bill. Another idea given by the audience was to write a letter to the League of Cities to get other cities to also support the bill.
  - **Commissioner Douglas' suggestions** (see attachment)

- Chair Al Vazquez read Commissioner Douglas' suggestions since not everyone had seen them. Discussion points:
    - Expedited priority review was considered a good idea by many.
    - A reduced fee would be difficult for Construction Services at this time due to the economy and due to the different types of inspections done by the City and those done by any certifying agency.
    - Caution was recommended when considering changing zoning rules.
    - Matching grant monies would be very difficult, the City does not have money to match grants, and grant money cannot typically be used to match another grant.
    - Indoor air quality was a concern for some. It was mentioned that indoor air quality is built into some of the certification programs. Concerned citizen, Carol Shein, strongly urged that the CGTF recommends the most stringent adherence to Indoor Environmental Quality, using ALL of LEED Prerequisites and Credits to provide the highest IEQ to building occupants.
  - It was decided to continue this discussion at the next meeting. Members are requested to send suggestions to [sustainability@wpb.org](mailto:sustainability@wpb.org) and they will be compiled for the next meeting.
- **Northwood Area Sustainability Workshop, Wednesday, August 12, 12-2 PM**
  - This workshop is now full. Penni Redford is working with TV18 to record it.

### **New Business**

- **“Fresh” movie information – Michelle Parenti**
  - Michelle Parenti was looking for a way to bring together her interests in nutrition and sustainability and when she learned recently that the average American diet creates a larger carbon footprint than our cars, she found that this could be the link.
  - Michelle would be willing to give a presentation on diet and carbon footprint and related issues, possibly for September 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - Michelle showed the trailer for “Fresh”, which can be seen at [freshthemovie.com](http://freshthemovie.com). The movie is not being shown in many theaters, but is available to rent to show to groups of 50 or 100.
  - Michelle will work with Penni Redford and Commissioner Muoio and possibly Friends of the Library to have a showing of the movie at the Library possibly on September 17<sup>th</sup>, with a discussion following. The discussion could be recorded to be shown on TV18.
  - Pat Painter is working on a water footprint and food production has a lot to do with it.

- **Community Gardens**

- Due to the economy some larger developments within the City have been put on hold. Some of these permits soon will be expiring. The City Commission is reviewing whether to provide the option of extending building permits for these projects and possibly linking them to using the land for pocket parks and community gardens for a specified amount of time. The Commission is planning a work session on this issue in the near future.
- Harvey Hathaway and Michelle Parenti agreed to make a presentation to the Commission at the work session on community gardens and pocket parks. Penni Redford will send out the document Establishing Land Use Protections for Community Gardens for reference.
- Ira Raab mentioned that if there is a concern about liability the owner can have a free rider and name the City on the rider.

### **Public Comments**

- Mike Wallander announced that the Palm Beach Green Drinks currently meeting at O'Sheas on the second Tuesday of the month from 6-8 will be moving their date and time to coincide with the City Green Task Force meetings starting in September. They will be meeting on the first Thursday of the month at Stash. More information is available at [southfloridagreendrinks.com](http://southfloridagreendrinks.com).
- There is a program called "Radio Green Earth" on Mondays at 10 AM on 1170 AM. This could be a venue for the Task Force or the City to get information out to the public.
- The Palm Beach County Green Task Force on Environmental Sustainability and Conservation Report to the Board of County Commissioners originally scheduled for July 21st is being rescheduled as a workshop in Commission Chambers at the County Governmental Center on Sept 22nd at 9:30 am. The report is available at:  
[http://www.pbcgov.com/gogreen/pdf/FINAL\\_PBC\\_GTF\\_REPORT\\_09.pdf](http://www.pbcgov.com/gogreen/pdf/FINAL_PBC_GTF_REPORT_09.pdf)

### **Future Meetings**

- Next meeting: August 20, 2009, 4-6 PM, Flagler Gallery

### **Adjourn**

***There was a motion to adjourn, hearing no objections,*** the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM.