

**CITY GREEN TASK FORCE
MEETING January 15, 2009
Approved Minutes**

Members Present:

Steve Corson
Everett Fennel
Harvey Hathaway
Michelle Parenti
Ira J. Raab
Myles Schack
Steven Scherer
Al Vazquez

Others Present:

Penni Redford

Minutes

Ira Raab moves to approve December 18, 2008 minutes, Myles Schack seconds, minutes are approved unanimously.

Remarks Ira Raab, CGTF Acting Chair

- Ira Raab commends Penni Redford as new Manager of Sustainability. This announcement was made by Mayor Frankel at the State of the City Address.

Unfinished Business

- **Appointment of new chair:** Ira Raab stated that the appointment of Al Vazquez as chair is in process and just awaiting the official stamp of approval from the Mayor.
- **E4 Sustainability Summit Update:**
 - Registration Form was passed out. Web site will be up very soon, Penni Redford will forward web-site when it is available. Brief overview of plan: First part is to provide information to the participants (350 maximum capacity: residents, businesses, city employees). The second part, the breakout sessions, is to get information from them: What do they want to do? What are they willing to do? We are still looking for sponsors. Ira Raab mentioned Tri-Rail. Still need some exhibitors.
 - Steven Scherer made a motion to have an additional meeting to plan what the CGTF can do at the Summit. Ira Raab seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Some ideas were already discussed, such as: having a table, a flyer in coordination with Downtown Development Authority, ushering, helping in breakout sessions. Steven Scherer mentions that CGTF message needs to be simple, just a couple of points. Now that there is an Office of Sustainability

and a Manager of Sustainability in the City we can work with them to flesh out what CGTF does and how we connect with the City and the Mayor. Penni Redford mentions that any help the members of the CGTF want to give regarding the Summit is welcome.

- **Community Garden:**
 - Teri Jabour gave report on the Community Garden project at 21st Street and Spruce Avenue, across from the Pleasant City Community Center (see attached). The land has been cleared, soil amendments will be made, a grant was acquired for \$25,000 from the Quantum Foundation. Hard-scapes will be installed and garden will be planted using the funds. Boys and Girls Club, Pleasant City Elementary School and the Pleasant City Community Center will be participating.
 - Ira Raab mentioned other sites around the city that could also be used as community gardens and that citizens might be interested in doing the planting and upkeep. He mentioned that Lowes and Home Depot might also be interested in helping with projects such as these. Letters could be written to neighborhood associations asking if they are interested and if they would create committees they could be assigned lots. It was decided that this could be a good project for a sub-committee of the CGTF. Harvey Hathaway and Ira Raab will form this sub-committee.

New Business

- **Palm Beach Zoo Sustainability Efforts:**
 - **Dr. Terry Maple, President & CEO:** Terry Maple talked about his ideas and visions for the Zoo. He would like the Zoo to become the greenest zoo in the country. He hopes that they will achieve this not only through buildings such as this green hospital, but through teaching, influence, and technology; by example. He hopes that Dreher Park as a whole will become a sustainable area, an eco park, working together in a sustainable way; water quality, edges appropriate plants, more natural, less like a golf course. He hopes that the City of West Palm Beach will become more interested in sustainability and that the Zoo's new building will help with that. Despite budget cuts, Zoo is in a great place due to community that rallied for the Zoo. Visitor numbers are up due to the jaguar cub. Additionally the Zoo is a great place to go if you are not traveling for holidays or a great place to revitalize. There will be a wellness center in the new hospital, Terry Maple's daughter has started working with animals to get them more active and working for better nutrition. The animals are acting more "normal". This information will be also passed on to the public; it can transfer to people's pets.
 - **Kristen Cytacki, Director of Education, Green Team:** About a year and a half ago they surveyed the Zoo employees to see if they thought the Zoo was green. The employees did not think they were,

so they have been making big changes to become greener: Zoo magazine is electronic, using recycled paper, during programs talking more about how your recycling helps animals by protecting their habitat, partnering with SWA, offering rain barrel programs, composting, having a coaching and mentoring program for new employees, programmatically – teaching the science of solar energy, etc. The Zoo has 250,000 visitors per year and they are teaching by example. They are also looking to other zoos for ideas and working with them.

- **Orlando Sharp, President, Sharp Project Developments, Inc.:** LEED accredited professional development planner representing the Zoo in the Zoo hospital project. They hope to get the gold LEED accreditation and are expecting at least silver. Main categories that they're looking at are: sustainable sites- property, location, public transportation, encourage bike riding, showers; roof; pavers vs. pavement; water efficiency – using water from lakes to water landscaping; air quality – very important since it's a hospital, some recirculation before 100% exhausting; insulation; electrical; renewable energy – equipment is set up for solar and they are hoping that financially it will be possible, looking into wind also.
- **Visit to Hospital Building under construction:**
 - City codes required permanent irrigation even though they plan to plant natives that will only need water for the first year. Their time-frame would not allow them to request a dispensation.
 - Perhaps the Task Force could work on getting some sort of variance through the City for LEED buildings, so that their contracts could take a higher priority.
 - They are using recycled materials and also recycling/reusing the extra building materials.
 - They are getting materials manufactured within a 500 mile radius as much as possible, which is difficult in South Florida.
 - Indoor Air Quality: no smoking, no food, Merv8 air filters. They are using low admitting materials, paint, caulking, low VOC paints etc.
 - Wood Fibrous components: Using quick growing forestry approved woods, mostly: poplar, pine and bamboo, also using low admitting glues.
 - Using day lighting and operable windows – though in Florida humidity is an issue.
 - Most of LEED points are coming from the mechanical systems - energy and water.
 - LEED system: LEED gives point checklist, builder needs to verify what they did.
 - They are expecting at least silver, hopefully gold certification.

- The certification will be posted in the lobby. Giving tours brings additional LEED points.
- No post facto points available if you add things later.
- They expect the building to be done in about two months.

Meeting adjourned