

**CITY GREEN TASK FORCE  
MEETING July 2, 2009  
Approved Minutes**

**Members Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

Teri Jabour  
Neil Melick  
Patrick Painter  
Penni Redford  
Peter Robbins  
Suzanne Schluter

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

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm.

A change to agenda was made to move the Mayor's comments to the top of the agenda.

**Unfinished Business**

• **Sunshine Law/Conflict of Interest Discussion Follow-up – Mayor Frankel**

Mayor Frankel thanked the Task Force members for working on the Task Force and for participating on the *Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants* (EECBG). She explained that there is very good potential that the grant will be done on a continuing basis and that the Task Force would be called upon again to help the City prioritize EECBG projects.

The Task Force has recently experienced resignations of certain members because their professional employment put them in potential conflict of interest with the City should their companies bid on future projects. The Mayor suggested two levels of participation on the Task Force; standard voting members, and advisory members who can bring to the group critical expertise.

The Mayor suggested that Ira Raab discuss any changes necessary to the charter with Jack Frost.

- Ira Raab moved that changes be made to the City Green Task Force Rules as below by adding the items in brackets. Harvey Hathaway seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.
  - Article IV. Membership
    - The CGTF shall consist of [voting] members [and advisory member] appointed from time to time by the Mayor.
  - Article VI. Voting
    - 1: Voting shall be by voice vote [of voting members] and shall be recorded by individual vote.

- 2: Each [voting] member present shall cast a vote on each question before the CGTF, except if any member has a personal interest in the matter, that member shall abstain from participating as a member of the CGTF in that matter.

### Minutes

- Approval of June 18 minutes was tabled until the next meeting to allow the members time to read over the minutes.

### Unfinished Business

- **Water Conservation Measures**

The Task Force's draft recommendations for water conservation were read to the group again for discussion and finalizing.

Discussion points:

- A list of native and preferred plants should be available with information on replacing undesirable non-native plants with natives.
- Guidelines for using cisterns should be made available and credits / incentives should be offered. Cisterns can be buried below ground or hidden by bushes. It was noted in the discussion that HOA communities would have to allow environmental enhancement allowed by City ordinance.
- For the waterfront project, 25% of plants are to be native; can that percentage be improved?
- Building permits should be expedited when there are green or water saving items in the plan.
- The City should use rebates and incentives as much as possible to encourage water savings.
- City Staff in appropriate areas such as Code Enforcement or Zoning will need to be involved in the discussions.
- Robert Kussner, the City's Landscape Planner is working on native plant requirements while revising codes. His plan should be available in about 60 days and the Task Force has been asked to review it.
- Grey water reuse should be required for new construction.

***MOTION: Louise Reed moved to make the following recommendation, Ira Raab seconded, motion passed unanimously.***

***The City Green Task Force recommends to Mayor Frankel that the following Water Conservation measures be adopted:***

- *To provide subsidy and/or rebate program, possibly supported by grants, which would retrofit interested West Palm Beach property owners with low flush toilet replacements, low water use washing machines, hot water recirculation devices, drip irrigation, cisterns, irrigation system rain sensors and rain barrels.*
- *To amend the City's code to encourage rainwater harvesting and allow irrigation cisterns for applicable homes and commercial properties.*

- *To require rain sensors with automatic shut-off for new irrigation systems and to phase in this requirement to existing irrigation systems over time.*
  - *To amend the City's landscape requirements (as part of our building code) to require the use of native and xeric plants and reduce the required area of planting water-thirsty grass lawns while at the same time ensuring adequate pervious surface for rain/storm water infiltration.*
  - *To aggressively pursue a policy of removal of invasive non-native vegetation and have a program to replace them with appropriate native xeric vegetation. This should be coupled with an education program so citizens understand their role in saving water and preserving our environment.*
- **Matching CGTF Member Interest & Expertise with E4 Initiatives**
  - Previously assigned:
    - Joy Rudy – Transportation/Public Transportation
    - Lisa-Marie Lerner – Energy
    - Harriet Sacher – Education, WCA Advisory Liaison
    - Patti Lodge – Green Information
    - Ira Raab – Tree Planting Program, Green Legislation
    - John DeCarion – Energy
    - Myles Schack – Water Conservation, Supply, Quality
    - Harvey Hathaway – Sustainable Communities, Urban Gardens
    - Michelle Parenti – Recycling
  - Members not present at previous meetings/additions:
    - Janet Schreiber – Sustainable Communities, Native Plants
    - Robert Cannellos – Green Building, Green Legislation
    - Louise Reed – Green Collar Jobs
  - Other Discussion:
    - ***MOTION: Ira Raab moved that the Task Force recommend that, within the existing budget, as many native plants be used as possible on the Waterfront Project. Harvey Hathaway seconded the motion and all were in favor.***
    - Harvey Hathaway stated that water plants are desperately needed in the Intracoastal Waterway, bulrushes, mangrove islands, which would do so much to clear up water. The Task Force was reminded that there is a project that will be managed by the Palm Beach County Dept. of Environmental Resource Management to plant mangroves and sea grass and establish oyster beds. Teri Jabour will let Harvey Hathaway know who he can contact to inquire about this project. The Task Force will be kept informed of any changes or progress.
    - Ralph Avallone, President of the Green Energy Council discussed their efforts in petitioning local governments to create a National

Green Jobs Institute and their efforts to get curricula in school systems.

- Al Vazquez mentioned that there is a green job training opportunity as part of a youth green jobs corps to assemble the street lights as part of the EECGB LED street light project. The City could purchase more lights and get young people working.
- Ralph Avallone mentioned the Dept. of Labor Green Jobs Act of 2007 and Green Pathways out of Poverty. Penni Redford said that she would like to discuss this further with him as the City is looking for partners for this type of endeavor.
- Ralph Avallone mentioned the problems they are having getting curricula into schools since school districts are out of money. They are working with utility companies to help fund. They are currently working with the Palm Beach County School District.
- Ralph Avallone also mentioned Florida's lack of a Renewable Portfolio Standard which would mandate that a certain percent of energy come from renewable sources. Without this, he feels that solar and other renewable sources of energy will not get going despite the fact that there are companies waiting to provide these.

### **New Business**

- **Green Building – Douglas Wise, Construction Services Director**

Doug Wise presented overview of types of green building standards (proprietary, published, and public). He recommends using a published or public standard to avoid licensing fees, and using a voluntary standard to avoid potential legal conflicts with existing State or Federal regulations and using incentives to elicit cooperation such as City funding sources, reduced fee schedules, and expedited and streamlined processing. He pointed out that localities are bound by State standards and the State tells us what codes we can and cannot write.

- Ralph Avallone mentioned that the 2007 Energy Policy and Security Act provides that the City could set standards for new projects and with the new standards could go to Request For Quote rather than Request For Proposal (an RFQ is a project-oriented price, whereas an RFP is a process-oriented price).
- Doug Wise mentioned that certain things can be required if using Housing and Community Development (HCD) funding, or if tied to Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) 1 or 2 grant monies.
- Pat Painter mentioned that we could lead by example on City buildings.
- Ralph Avallone recommended expediting permits when there are green components.
- Doug Wise recommended not focusing on one set of standards and using incentives to elicit cooperation. There is great technology out there and the codes have not caught up.
- Coconut Creek decided to mandate LEED certification (even though it could be challenged legally). Developers decided that it was easier to comply than to fight the city.

- Robert Cannellos has prepared a green building presentation that discusses ordinances and FL Statutes which he plans to present at next meeting.
- It was noted that West Palm Beach is a coastal city, and as such we should encourage builders to come east, revitalize, and build green. Rather than encroaching more and more on the Everglades, the City should discourage urban sprawl.
- The City could provide more square footage for developer using LEED certification.
- Rooftop gardens were mentioned, however, they are very difficult from a structural viewpoint. There are better opportunities to work on attic insulation, energy efficient A/C, and reflective roof coatings.
- It was noted that if the State adopted Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards, it could represent up to a 60% rebate to homeowners for solar panel (or other green energy) installation.
- Homeowners need to be shown that going green saves them green. Educate by public service announcements.
- Penni Redford mentioned that one of the main goals of the Office of Sustainability is education of citizens and businesses. We are planning workshops and summits to the community. We hope to get more stimulus money to do this. Programs will be held at the green pavilion on the waterfront and at neighborhood associations meetings. We hope to get money to offer help for weatherization. We want to be the one-stop shop for information about rebates, etc.

### **Remarks by Chairperson**

Al Vazquez spoke about his meeting with the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) about a establishing a reflective roof coating program. The DDA will be developing a program to provide downtown businesses \$5,000 to install reflective roofs in the form of five \$1,000 grants.

### **New Business**

- **Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 – Information – Penni Redford**

The City is applying for Neighborhood Stabilization grant money worth approximately \$38 million. The City looked at neighborhoods within the City in need of stabilization money and is targeting an area of about 200 homes in the Pleasant City North area, near Coleman Park. There are many homes that are boarded-up, abandoned, or foreclosed on in that area. The City will see which houses can be updated using green technology.

The City is working on developing a local weatherization program to work on homes in the City. This specific grant proposal is due in July but if there are other grants available that the City knows of, but is not the appropriate organization to apply for the grant, they are letting other groups know about them and possibly partner with them to help money come to our community.

Comments:

- Steve Kairis, President of Evergreen BioConcepts, Inc. mentioned that the Weatherization Block Grant money will be used in the communities, but the money is not being given out to the communities.
- Al Vazquez urged that there be equitable distribution throughout the whole of the City of any monies received.
- **Future Meeting Topic Schedule Discussion – tabled until next meeting**

### **Public Comments**

- Mary Jo Agerstoun – Old Northwood Area -
  - Announced the establishment of the Northwood Area Green Committee, consisting of neighbors and business owners in the Northwood Village, Old Northwood, and Broadway Reinvestment Coalition (BRIC).
  - The Northwood Area Green Committee is actively considering LEED for neighborhoods. The USGBC just about to put out this certification.
  - The Northwood Area Green Committee is planning a Green Planning & Building Workshop for mid-August. Details will be announced shortly.
  - EcoArt & Infrastructure 101 Seminar, July 10, 7:30am – 10am, Sponsored by the Palm Beach County Planning Congress and Westgate / Belvedere Homes CRA
    - 2 CEU's available
    - Topics: EcoArt Practice, Elements Necessary, and a Case Study of an EcoArt Project in the making
- Christian Rivera, Sun Recycling
  - Recycles construction debris
  - About 45% of the content of landfills is construction debris
  - Up to 90% of construction debris can be recycled
  - When the NSP2 program gets going he wants to make sure that construction debris is recycled.
- Commissioner Douglas
  - There is a new electronics recycling company in town, she will provide details via email.
- Ralph Avallone – Renewable energy is only about 4.5%, coal & oil are 60%. Renewable energy advocates cannot compete against the coal and oil lobby. He urged members to contact our Senators to support the Waxman-Markey bill. It will provide funding to do such things as retooling manufacturers to make solar water heaters, wind turbine parks, etc. These are the kinds of things that will bring our economy back.

### **Future Meetings**

- Next meeting: July 16, 2009, 4-6 PM, Flagler Gallery

### **Adjourn**

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