

**CITY GREEN TASK FORCE
MEETING June 18, 2009
Approved Minutes**

Members Present:

John DeCarion
Harvey Hathaway
Lisa-Marie Lerner
Patricia Lodge
Ira Raab
Joy Rudy
Harriet Sacher
Myles Schack
Al Vazquez

Others Present:

David Hanks
Penni Redford
Peter Robbins
Suzanne Schluter

Call to Order/Sign In/Changes to Agenda

Meeting was called to order at 4:12 pm.

A change to agenda was made to include approval of corrected minutes for 5/7 and 5/21 meetings, due to resignations from the Task Force.

Minutes

- ***Ira Raab moved to approve corrected May 7 and 21, 2009 minutes and 6/4 minutes with changes, Harriet Sacher seconded, minutes were approved unanimously.***

Remarks by Chairperson Al Vazquez

- Discussed his working with the golf course during their renovation to insure that native scrub habitats are preserved and encourages members to work in their communities on initiatives of this sort.

Unfinished Business

- **Sunshine Law Discussion** – Penni Redford, Sustainability Manager
 - To follow up with discussion from the last meeting, Norman Ostrau, Ethics Officer, went to Ethics Commission to receive clarification on this issue. The information he came back with was that if a person serves on this Task Force, there will be a conflict of interest for bidding on any contracts and you or your company will be disqualified from contracting with the City.
 - It should be noted, however, that those wishing to be able to contract with the City can still attend meetings as interested citizens and provide their input and expertise to the discussion. They can also be contacted by members of the Task Force for information.
- **Water Conservation Measures**
 - Discussion at the last meeting brought us to the conclusion that the Water Catchment Area Advisory Committee and the future Water

Advisory Committee will probably be focusing on the demand side of the water issue, and the Task Force can focus on supply and conservation. To this end, would we like to make any recommendations to the Mayor?

- Elizabeth Wright, DDA, brought up EcoArt that can be utilitarian as well as decorative. Elizabeth will bring information to a future meeting and the Task Force may invite Mary Jo Agerstoun, a local Eco Artist, to give a presentation at a future meeting.
- The city of Austin, Texas was discussed as they are very progressive in water conservation, such as:
 - Using hot water re-circulators which divert water back to the water heater until it is to the set temperature and then releasing it for use. Devices are possibly available at Home Depot.
 - Low-flow toilets are given away.
- Perhaps we could give a credit on water bill if they bring in their invoice from the purchase/installation of items.
- Home Depot may also be able to give a discount certificate.
- Cisterns were discussed.
- We want to keep social equity in mind; we don't want sustainability to become a class issue.
- Some members feel that irrigation needs to be our focus; it's the giant. It accounts for about ½ the water usage. Leaks in irrigation systems also use huge amounts of water.
- Guy Alberero, a local attorney, recommended that the Task Force look at how to incentivize and enforce any recommendations made. Codes need to be looked at, (including landscaping) and enforced at new sites. Incentives could work for existing landscaping or limit amount of allowed water. It was noted that Robert Kussner, City Planning and Zoning Dept, is currently working on revising the landscape codes.
- Rain sensor shut-off valves were discussed as important and they are currently required on new construction. Sensors are important but not all sensors work well. Should we recommend that existing landscaping be retrofitted with sensors and shut-off valves?
- The concern was raised that codes are difficult to enforce. Would Code Enforcement be able to at least check up on large communities?
- Grey water should be used for new developments. SFWMD is mandating reclaimed water for large communities.
- Palm Beach Soil and Water Conservation Service (county entity) provides the service of assisting individuals to set their irrigation systems to appropriate settings.
- It was decided that members should investigate water conservation measures, include their suggestions for implementation possibilities within West Palm Beach and send them to the Office of

Sustainability (sustainability@wpb.org). They will be compiled and distributed to members in advance of the next meeting. This should allow for more concise discussions and recommendations.

- **Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant Update**

Penni Redford updated the Task Force on the EECBG projects as some of the projects had to be changed. The application will be submitted as soon as possible and no later than June 25. It is expected to be 60-90 days to be noticed, in the mean-time we will start working on the Request for Proposals.

- Solar for City Center was initially chosen, but the return on investment was not good; expected to be able to generate only about 35 KW for about \$700,000. The project was tabled at this time.
- Retrofitting Streetlights – 256 metal halide fixtures to be retrofitted to LED and adding 44 new LED fixtures, expected to diminish electrical usage by up to 80%. This will also provide for better security lighting and work toward crime reduction.
- City Garages – Police Garage and Evernia – retrofit to another type of energy efficient light, attached to motion sensor, (no lighting or minimal lighting, then additional lights come on with movement of person or vehicle).
- Electric Vehicles and Charging Stations –increased to 4 EVs to be available for code enforcement, citizens on patrol, and administration. Charging stations will be available to citizens at large.
- Green Pavilion LEED technology up grades – unchanged as presented earlier; included some funding for educational programming and conservation kits.
- There will be competitive grants coming and many of the other projects will be considered for those applications.
- Elizabeth Wright, DDA, mentioned that the Downtown Development Authority is working on obtaining some of the recycling receptacles.

New Business

- **Matching CGTF Member Interest & Expertise with E4 Initiatives**

- Joy Rudy – Transportation/Public Transportation
- Lisa-Marie Lerner – Energy
- Harriet Sacher – Education, Water Quality/Mitigation Site, WCA – Liaison between WCA and Task Force
- Patti Lodge – Can bring efforts to Flamingo Park Neighborhood Association, does not have time for other assignments
- Ira Raab – Light switch stickers, Tree Planting Program, Green building/Permitting
- John DeCarion – Energy, will be out of town for the summer
- Myles Schack – Water Conservation, Supply, Quality

- Harvey Hathaway –Urban Gardens
- **Future Meeting Topic Schedule Discussion** – tabled until next meeting.
- **Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 – Information** - Penni Redford – tabled until next meeting.

Future Meetings

- Next meeting: July 2, 2009, 4-6 PM, Flagler Gallery

Adjourn

There was a motion to adjourn, there were no objections. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.