

**CITY GREEN TASK FORCE
MEETING June 4, 2009
Approved Minutes**

Members Present:

John DeCarion
Harvey Hathaway
Patricia Lodge
Louise Reed
Joy Rudy
Steven Scherer
Janet Schreiber
Al Vazquez

Others Present:

Neil Melick
Commissioner Muoio
Penni Redford
Suzanne Schluter

Call to Order/Sign In/Changes to Agenda

Meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm.

Minutes

- *Patti Lodge moved to approve May 7 and 21, 2009 minutes with changes to 5/21 minutes, Louise Reed seconded, minutes were approved unanimously.*

Remarks by Chairperson Al Vazquez

- **Recommendations for Productive Meetings**
 - Read information, including minutes from previous meetings, before meeting and be ready to discuss.
 - Chair will make efforts to include everyone in discussion.
 - Robert's Rules of Order will apply.
 - Keep email fact finding to the facts, avoid giving any recommendations and send all correspondence through the Office of Sustainability.
 - An amount of time for each item will be listed on the agenda and effort will be made to stick to those times.
 - Agendas, minutes and handouts that were sent out ahead of meetings will not be printed for meetings. If there are errors in minutes, please email corrections, and efforts will be made to correct and resend before the meeting.

Unfinished Business

- **Sunshine Law Discussion – Norman Ostrau, Ethics Officer**

Question: Task Force Members are concerned that if the Task Force gives a recommendation to the Mayor to proceed in a certain direction or on a certain project and the company that they work for bids on a project related to that recommendation, this will be a conflict of interest.

Answers:

- State Law states that a public officer, which you are as a member of this task force, cannot have a contractual relationship with the appointing authority. This means a conflict of interest between your public duties and your private interest.
 - An important factor is disclosure. If something comes up, disclose it and the governing agency or appointing authority, in this case, the Mayor, will decide if there is a conflict or not. However, if it is deemed that there is conflict, your company would not be able to bid, or you would have to leave employment or leave the Task Force.
 - Additionally if you garnered special expertise as being a member of the Task Force that is not public knowledge, and you used that information for private gain, that would be conflict of interest. Though this should not be a problem for this group, since all meetings are public.
 - If you are an employee and your company decided to bid with the City, and you are not working on that project, it would not be a conflict of interest. If you provide professional services, even if you are not the person in your company involved, it could still be a conflict if interest, as every client of the company is considered a client of each professional in the company.
 - Abstaining from voting on an issue would not exempt you. Just sitting on the Task Force could still indicate a conflict of interest. However, you could disclose before making a recommendation and seek approval at that time.
 - If the Task Force were to disband then there would be no more issue. However, if the Task Force continues and the recommendation was made months before the bid, there could still be conflict of interest.
 - Norman Ostrau will talk to Ethics Committee for further information and get back to us.
 - Perhaps changing the way that appointments are made (perhaps with exemptions for certain professions), or the changing the type of group can help us avoid this problem. Or perhaps having people resign as members, but still assist with information, would be a solution. We'd like to avoid emptying the Task Force in this way though.
- **Electric Capacitor Device Investigation** – Everett Fennell, CGTF Member
 - Everett not here, but David Hanks has some information, and because Everett had sent the information out, we can discuss briefly.
 - City is installing one on a lift station and this will give us some data for a commercial application and will give feedback. David Hanks

had personally installed on home, did not provide much reduction in one billing cycle, then it was destroyed by lightning.

- Discussion: FPL does not charge for KVAR, (the type of electricity that the capacitor device controls) and supplies clean energy (just the right amount of KVAR's), so households supplied by FPL would probably see little reduction in electrical costs by using a capacitor device.
- Overview: Capacitor device residential application is limited or non-existent due to the way FPL delivers and charges for power. Commercial applications or large scale applications would have to be decided on a case by case basis. The City will be testing device on lift station and results will be made available.

- **Water Conservation Measures** – David Hanks, Director of Public Utilities

The situation now is different than a few weeks ago since we've had so much rain, we are not in such a tight spot. However, we did pilot program with approval of SFWMD and DEP to move water back from the C51 canal to the renaissance area and into Clear Lake. We were not able to get as much water as we hoped, but the quality was excellent, better than expected. So this is a very real possibility that this water source would become available should the situation worsen. Information received from this test is going to Broward County and SFWMD.

Another option that we are working on is the Advanced Wastewater Treatment facility. The wastewater treatment plant is taking some of the wastewater treated; putting it in the wetlands then it is going to a well field for further treatment. Concerns were raised about pharmaceuticals, but David Hanks stated that the water treatment plant filters those out.

The Public Utilities Dept. is looking at the best course of action for the future regarding moving the plant, type of filtration, etc. For example from their research so far, it is looking like an reverse osmosis system will probably fit our situation the best since we have water coming from various sources and coming in at varying quality. Some of our particular circumstances are: lakes – ponds really, heat, algae, chemicals to treat against algae.

Question was raised about desalination. David Hanks does not foresee need for desalination at this time. He would like to see the City pursue another reservoir out west where water could be kept and delivered to the M-canal as needed.

The City also has an ASR - Aquifer Storage and Recovery. Finished water can be injected into the aquifer and recovered later. This is at a depth of about 1,500 ft. This is not the same place where the waste water is being

injected. The deep well waste water injection is done at about 15,000 ft, below the clay. Though the City has had this ASR for several years, it has not been used, so the recovery percentage is not yet known.

Commissioner Muoio mentioned that she hopes that while the City is studying the possibility of a new water plant, we'll build conservation into the equation; build a smaller plant and learn how to conserve, offer rebates on items such as low flow toilets, etc.

David Hanks mentioned that the plant is putting out only about 16-20 million gallons of water recently while it's been raining, as opposed to 30-35 million gallons just a few weeks ago before the rains came. People are watering less.

Steve Scherer complimented David Hanks and Public Utilities on behalf of the Task Force for the great job they are doing. He also asked for advice on how the Task Force could be involved in water issues. He sees the Water Catchment Area Advisory Committee and the newly approved Water Advisory Committee as focusing on the supply side of water and perhaps the Task Force could work on diminishing the demand. He is not really able to answer that question yet, as the WAC was approved but has not started meeting yet.

David Hanks wants to really get into the schools to promote conservation through an outreach program with GWP/Sustainability staff and volunteers.

The question of using reclaimed water came up. DEP and SFWMD are giving direction to use the Advanced Water Treatment facility – not yet working on sustainability. The town of Palm Beach is using so much water on irrigation; we are in discussions with them to give them reclaimed water for irrigation. Their waste water goes to us and some to the City of Lake Worth for treatment. It would be to our benefit to help them get infrastructure to redistribute the reclaimed water set up and to have all their waste water to come to us.

It was brought up that Al Gore stressed treating drinking water at the point of use. The Town of Palm Beach had thought about this possibility. It requires upkeep on each individual property owner's part and has potential for health issues if the systems are not well maintained.

City would like to pursue the Green Home project to be able to test things such as cisterns or rain barrels. In former cities, David Hanks gave out conservation kits with low flow shower heads, etc. and tracked results. Most homeowners had removed shower heads by the 1 year check as

they were used to such high water pressure. This is not the case with WPB so a similar program may work better here.

Penni Redford mentioned that Grassy Waters Preserve staff will be making programming changes to include reaching out to residents in their communities. The Waterfront Pavilion and Library offer opportunities for downtown programming, as well as school outreach. We will bring our ideas to the Task Force and welcome ideas from the Task Force.

New Business

- **Matching CGTF Member Interest & Expertise with E4 Initiatives** – tabled until next meeting but please come with ideas about area(s) where you would like to take an active role.
- **Future Meeting Topic Schedule Discussion** – tabled until next meeting

Future Meetings

- Next meeting will be June 18, 2009, 4-6 PM, in the Mayor's Board Room.

Adjourn

There was a motion to adjourn, there were no objections. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.