

Green Team Meeting, March 5, 2009

Attendance: Will Reilly, Chris Haddox (acting chair), Steve Woodruff, Nate Askins, Don Spencer, Sheila Westfall, Jim Kotcon, Chris Van Dyke, Bill Reger-Nash, Dan Boroff, Sarah Veselka, Patrick Kirby, Larry Harris

Meeting began at approximately 4:10. Don Spencer outlined the resolution on regulating gas drilling to protect the Monongahela River. The resolution was passed at the Feb. 3 City Council meeting.

Item 1. Minutes of the February 7 Green Team meeting were approved without change.

Item 2. City Manager's Report.

The new fire station is on schedule with potential completion date in May. LEED certification is on track. The City has started planning open ceremonies.

The City's energy audit is nearing completion, CTL plans to attend next Green Team meeting to present results.

Item 3. Presentation from Bill Reger-Nash on alternative transportation

Bill Reger-Nash introduced the Pedestrian Safety Board that focuses on making the city more walkable. Currently, this board is working with the traffic commission and has prepared a lengthy plan that is in draft stage. The Pedestrian Safety Board is sponsoring and promoting the "year of active transport" with various activities every month.

Action: To promote communication, the Green Team and the Pedestrian Safety Board will exchange meeting minutes.

Item 4. Presentation by Sarah Veselka of Friends of Deckers Creek. She reported on a grant proposal to the EPA that supports Community Activities for Renewed Environments. The proposal has the approval of the cities of Morgantown, Masontown and Reedsville and will focus on community perceptions of toxins in their environment. This phase will be followed by confirmation studies and then future clean-ups.

Action: Sarah will send a copy of the grant to the Green Team, and we will consider writing a letter of support.

Item 5. Green Construction Workshop

Chris Haddox reported that discussions with the Morgantown Chamber of Commerce indicated that the workshop would best focus on efficiencies associated with green

policies. They will try to get a speaker from the Pittsburgh area, where there has been some emphasis on green building practices.

Patrick discussed the Smart Growth grants program of the EPA, and Morgantown is considering submission of a proposal. There are only 12 grants to be funded nationwide, so we need to focus ours on something fairly unique. Pat passed out copies of the Technical Assistance guide for this program and discussion of key areas followed. Some felt our efforts with the gas drilling issue would be suitable, and others thought our Green Building activities would be best.

Item 6. Intern Report: Sheila Westfall

Sheila reported on her research as to what other cities are doing in terms of energy conservation and green initiatives. She mentioned the "Green Business" certification used by Boulder, CO. We discussed how this might be done here and how this would fit with the Comprehensive Plan. We discussed the need to focus on 2-4 comparable cities that have green initiatives and look for things that we might do right away. Sheila will send information to the GT as soon as it is available.

Item 7. Reports from the four standing committees on plans for 2009: Energy, Green Architecture, Recycling, and Transportation.

Ran out of time, so no reports

Item 8. New Business

Don Spencer discussed that we planned to prepare a document to accompany permits for builders and remodelers that focuses on green building practices. This has not yet been done but is clearly a way to couple education during the Code Enforcement process. Dan added that the State would soon issue a new set of building codes so this might be a good time to develop our brochure.

We discussed two individuals for consideration as new members of the Green Team.

Website: Chris Van Dyke discussed the updates on the site and called for submission of links. He will add appropriate links, two of which might be the Fire Station link and the Performance Contract link.

Next meeting: Thursday April 2, 2009

Meeting adjourned at 6 pm.

Submitted by Chris Van Dyke and Larry Harris