

Green Team Meeting May 6, 2010

Attendance: Don Spencer, Megan Nedzinski, Trevor Lloyd, Amelia Martin, Max Reinke, Bill Wonderlin, Will Reilly, Jim Kotcon, Ginger Stern, John Hall, Ryan Hess, Daniel Bonasso, Steve Woodruff, Chris Haddox, Chris Van Dyke (acting secretary). Guests: Tom Arnold, Emilie Marlier

Meeting began at 4:06 PM.

Item 1. Minutes of the April 8 Green Team meeting were approved with a change to the attendance.

Item 2. Report from the City

Trevor Lloyd discussed the possibility of getting the complete 2009 ICC codes adopted by the City via municipal ordinance. Trevor believes the city manager must first be convinced that this action is in the best interests of Morgantown and suggested identifying reasons for this as a first step. Jim Kotcon asked if federal stimulus money could be lost if the codes are not adopted; Trevor thought this step could make the City “more eligible.” Megan Nedzinski suggested brainstorming to identify a list of talking points and items that need to be researched. She also thought Architecture committee could do the legwork by working closely with the energy committee.

Item 3. Report to City Council

Both Megan and Chris Haddox thought this report should be annual. Don Spencer stressed it should be considered a periodic report and include Green Team activities and where the city “needs to go;” the report should be prepared this summer to help inform legislative priorities in the fall. Don suggested updated streetlights should be included. Jim suggested including the ICC code issue and the streetlights including Ginger Stern’s inventory. Megan thought it is premature to include ICC codes. Chris Haddox is willing to prepare a draft.

Item 4. Recycling in Morgantown

Tom Arnold, chair of the Solid Waste Advisory Board (SWAB), presented a summary of their activities. Since SWAB’s founding in 2007, they have met 29 times to examine Morgantown’s waste, and they have also met with all city departments, Allied Waste, Solid Waste Authority, County Health Department, WVU, DEP and neighborhood associations. SWAB has presented the City with 17 pages of recommendations as a result of this effort. Some points Tom made (some in response to questions):

- Currently recycling is disjointed. Six items are collected from neighborhoods every 2 weeks; it would be preferable to collect 13 items every week. No standard recycling for multiunit housing or commercial entities exists at present.
- Low tipping fees mean low incentives for recycling. Cardboard is difficult to recycle given its bulk and the need for compaction. Current market value is about \$150/ton. The primary difficulty with glass recycling is the low market price of \$6/ton. Paper & plastics can create contamination issues.
- SWAB carefully considered single stream recycling, but the Solid Waste Authority’s volume of recyclables is too small to make this economically viable.
- SWAB recommended “pay as you throw” with 2 bins for recycling - one for paper and one for everything else. This will be more expensive (\$3.50/bag) than the current service (about \$2/week). This system commonly has start up problems. Enforcement of rules is necessary.
- The City views trash management as a property rights issue as opposed to property management. Other cities have interpreted this differently. Under state law, trash is a utility, so it is the tenant’s responsibility; the property owner is not required to supply storage for trash.
- Allied Waste Services has been granted “common carrier rights” by the Public Service Commission to haul this region’s trash. The necessitates working with Allied.

- Clarksburg has a system for organics composting, which losses money due the too small scale of operation. Morgantown might be able to work with Clarksburg to send organics to that facility.

Item 4. IEBG Update

Max Reinke reported on recent events including Impact E.A.R.T.H. and the hospital green day. Future Green Nights at the Library include alternative transportation and possibly local food. Daniel Bonasso noted that Green Nights topics have been very specific and suggested something broader might be in order. As an example, he cited a recent event he attended entitled “Everything You Need to Know” that included a panel.

Bill Wonderlin noted that the hospital green day was well attended and thought the City should consider a similar sort of fair. Bill thought that the “Green Nights” presentations could act as a nucleus of such an event. Megan suggested that activities that the City is engaged in should be included and also have some municipal government representatives present.

Don thought that the canopy to be constructed for the Farmers Market would be an ideal location and it may be available this fall outside of market times. Chris Haddox noted that an event in September or later may require more shelter and suggested the First Presbyterian Church or the Public Library. Max said he would check on the maximum capacity of the library and that his internship ends this August.

Don suggested including information on Sunnyside Up, zoning law, multimodal center, PRT and the fire station. Megan indicated two events could be appropriate, one for city and second event for everything else. Daniel thought it could be done as a split day. Chris Van Dyke argued that a single event was probably better given that it would be a more achievable goal.

After some discussion of various possible locations, downtown emerged as the consensus choice. Chris Haddox requested that Max draw up a planning document.

As an aside, Megan suggested the Green Team’s website should have an email address for general inquires and pages for all the subcommittees. She has received a number of contacts, as her email address is the only one currently on the site.

Item 5. Local straw bale house

Emilie Marlier described her straw bale house that is nearing completion. The structure uses a center pole as a support pillar and roof peak. The exterior walls sit on a rubble foundation and are constructed of straw bales that are not load-bearing – the roof is carried by support poles. The walls are faced with plaster that Emilie reported as very time consuming. Windows and doors are kept to a minimum to complement the high insulation value inherit in this type of building.

Item 6. New business

Chris Haddox reported two upcoming events of possible interest:

1. Tentatively scheduled on June 5, Extended Learning will present “The Basics of Home Energy Auditing.” This is open to the public and costs \$50.
2. On May 17 at 7 PM, the Monongalia County Board of Education will meet discuss the upcoming ten-year plan. The venue is University High.

Next Meeting is at June 3, 2010 at 4 PM in the Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 6:07 PM.