

Greenhouse Gas/Energy Conservation Team

Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2009, 12:00-2:00 pm

140 W. Pine, City Council Chambers

Members: Brian Kerns, Jim Kuffel, Nancy Wilson, Steve Patrick, Ben Schmidt, Sam Hall

Facilitators: Susan Anderson (Sustainable Business Council), Gary Bakke (Chamber of Commerce)

I. Call to Order 12:05

II. Roll Call Present: Brian Kerns, Jim Kuffel, Ben Schmidt, Sam Hall, Nancy Wilson

Absent: Steve Patrick

Others Present: Gary Bakke, Ryan Morton, Dan Hutchinson, Pam Walzer

III. Announcements:

Robin Saha will give a presentation and update on the municipal emission inventory project.

A group attended the Transportation Commission meeting, which still refers itself as the Highway Commission. It is apparent that MDT will stand in the way of progressive transportation issues in Missoula unless education is filtered their way. Need to branch out with educating beyond our community. The commission split the stimulus funding by area, split down the middle of the state with no consideration given to population or vehicle road miles traveled. There is an opportunity to work on that. Arlee and Kalispell got many times more than Missoula.

Paul Williamson has been working on a novel progressive transit form called Personal Rapid Transit. It is an above ground magnetic levitation system with small transport cars meant to be cheap and light weight and mimic the way people use cars. With the stimulus funds, there is an attempt to have a demonstration project here in Missoula in attempt for Federal funding eventually.

IV. Public comments on items not listed on the agenda. (Required by law) none

V. Approve meeting minutes of February 12, 2009.

Mr. Schmidt motioned to approve February minutes, **Jim Kuffel** seconded, all were in favor.

*Request that Action items, particularly A. Buildings be moved up on the agenda as Mr. Hall has to leave early for another meeting.

VI. Action Items:

A. Buildings—request city council to weigh in on high efficiency ideas

Mr. Hall referred to the draft building energy efficiency program recommendations the committee discussed last month. Discussion dictated a couple more changes in language should be made.

Section 1 Residential Housing A.

Discussion:

Mr. Patrick submitted a concern with the wording of the first sentence in Section 1-Residential Housing: A as it being too broad in scope via email in anticipation of his required absence. Mr. Kuffell commented that the last sentence in that section adequately clarifies the opening sentence, doesn't see a problem with the opening sentence.

Mr. Kerns had numerous questions of which Pam Walzer answered. City staff has identified bills of interest which are tracked in the Mayor's Office. The Mayor directs the lobbyist on which bills to

advocate; if City Council wants something on the list, they can request that with the Mayor. The list the city is advocating for is linked on the City homepage-Legislation 2009. Mr. Kuffell offered that the group allows Mr. Hall to act as representative and work directly with the Mayor's Office on this time sensitive work in order to get things done. Mr. Hall said he would make the time to do this and feels that it may be more effectual to have more of a direct involvement with City departments to get things done. Pam Walzer offered she would be willing to take recommendations forward as a member of Council to track, follow, and advocate for.

Public comment: Ryan Morton said that MBIA is following a lot of bills as well and expect the energy improvement district legislation to pass. As far as the tax credit incentives, the budget is being debated. If anyone would like to be included on the email update on the bills MBIA is in support of let me know.

Section 1 Residential Housing B

Mr. Hall expressed that builders that are doing their part to reduce GHG emissions through construction or renovation of high performance homes deserve recognition from the city in some official manner. The City could work within a system in place, like MBIA, it does recognition and support of those builders.

Discussion:

Mr. Morton stated it would be good to get the city to look at development in terms of green development and construction as a spectrum. To think bigger of what is 'green'. A great deal of engineering is involved at subdivision stage as infrastructure is designed. There is a lot of resource efficiency that can be gained in this engineering as well. In terms of what is being done in the construction market, there are more 'green' vendors than builders; they should be included in that recognition as well. The next step is getting builders to certify homes as green, that takes education and MBIA is doing that state-wide. There is the need to encourage policy makers to look at consumers and get them to actively pursue green building. Getting the word out and educating on what products and options are out there in order to connect with consumers is important. For a lot of people funding is the issue, whatever can be done to improve consumers access to green construction financing is important and lastly, remodeling needs to be a bigger focus.

Weatherization and remodeling are related and are what people can afford and get financing to do right now and should be the focus. New construction is very difficult currently. The letter is good, you may want to add to it.

Mr. Schmidt recommended modifying that section to make it clearer and include vendors and remodeling. Mr. Hall added that the demand for green products and building needs to be generated, anything the City can do to increase that demand will be huge, supporting the builders through educating the consumer is any way would be helpful. The associated paybacks for building green need to be emphasized as well. The upfront costs are often off-set over time.

Mr. Schmidt volunteered to edit Section 1- B to include remodeling and vendors.

Public Comment:

Ryan Morton offered that MBIA would be happy to raise awareness through their newsletter to their membership of what this committee is working toward to raise awareness.

Gary Bakke offered a way to have city support of green builders or vendors could be a monthly proclamation by the Mayor highlighting 'green business of the month' submitted through MBIA or the Chamber of Commerce. Each organization has a method of highlighting businesses.

Discussion on these recommendations concluded at this time, to be taken up next month as Mr. Hall needs to leave.

- B. Transportation —City Alternative Commuter Incentive Program Nancy Wilson
Would like to postpone this topic until Missoula In Motion director returns from maternity leave.

VII. Non-Action Items

- A. City Renewable Energy Credits update (5 min) Ben Schmidt and Brian Kerns
Mr. Kerns reported he received comments from Jim Nugent via Bruce Bender in preparation for an agreement between the provider and the City. He is awaiting clarification.

Discussion—none

Public Comment-none

- B. Sustainability Coordinator Position Update (10 min) Ben Schmidt
Mr. Schmidt reported there may be a possibility of filling this position for a year through the AmeriCorps* VISTA program with Niki Phear being the University partner.

Discussion-none

Public Comment-none

- VIII. **Adjournment:** *Mr. Schmidt* made motion to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm.