

Greenhouse Gas/Energy Conservation Team

Meeting Minutes

May 14, 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, Julie Osborn

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

I. Call to Order: 12:10

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

Absent: Steve Patrick

Others Present: Ryan Morton, Matthew Koehler

III. Announcements:

Jim Kuffel handed out a brochure about Krylon Products and their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Brian Kerns talked about the 'green generator' being present at Local Fest this Saturday.

Ben Schmidt announced that the city is moving forward to look at energy conservation/grant writer position, won't be quite what we suggested in the way of a sustainability coordinator but is a step in that direction. City is moving forward with performance contracting as well.

IV. Public comments on items not listed on the agenda. (Required by law)

None

V. Approve meeting minutes of March 12, 2009 and April 9, 2009.

Mr. Schmidt motioned to approve meeting minutes for March and April, **Mr. Kerns** seconded, all in favor.

VI. Action Items:

A. Buildings—Request City Council to promote High Efficiency Building Methods

Mr. Schmidt stated that some suggestions were given to the Mayor's Office and Council with legislation to support, Bruce Bender meet with us to discuss why the City should be involved when State Law dictates uniform building codes.

The document we have been working on Building Energy Efficiency Recommendations is before us. It has strike-outs due to the timeliness and the session ending.

Mr. Schmidt motioned to approve the document and send to Conservation Committee continuing the discussion on the importance of the educational aspects and the sustainability character of promoting projects done in the community to high efficiency standards.

Ms. Wilson suggested adding a section stating that city/county buildings should be location efficient to the public visiting those offices and for their employees to use public transit. Discussion ensued and agreed to add under Section 3—City and County Buildings, **E—Municipal government should consider locating municipal buildings in a manner convenient for the public and employees to access via public transit, walking and biking.**

Ms. Wilson made an amended motion to approve the recommendations with addition of Section 3 E as stated above. **Mr. Hall** seconded, all in favor.

Public comment: none

Further debate: none

VII. **Non-Action Items**

A. Renewable Energy Credits Update–Brian Kerns

Mr. Kerns met with City legal counsel to review drafts, which went to BEF and they sent a 'new' legal form back to the City for review.

B. LED Lighting–Brian Kerns

In conjunction with the students making the presentation to the Mayor on the greenhouse gas inventory project, I would like this committee to look at recommending some project to upgrade street lighting to LED. Mr. Kerns pointed out contract details with Northwestern Energy which owns the street-light poles and has separate contracts with each lighting district which are on 3-year terms. If no party takes action, contract automatically renews. There is a monthly ownership charge per pole as well as operations and maintenance costs. Great Falls determined with this formula the poles have been paid for 4x over and suggested maybe Missoula examine the contracts for options to renegotiate.

There was a demo lamp with incandescent 40W bulb (\$.50); Compact Fluorescent 10W bulb (\$6.00); and an LED 1.5W device (\$10.00) to demonstrate equivalent lighting and watts used. The LED's are efficient, long-lived, 5x more than CF, 50x more than incandescent. City of Ann Arbor MI did a study and ran a test project replacing sodium vapor lights, which lasts 2 years with LED which lasts 10 years-determined a cost savings payback in 4.4 years. Mr. Kerns pointed out there needs to be financial incentive methods to compel change.

The light pollution effect depends on the type of head, LED is very directional. LED's also do not get hot, they have no mercury. Some don't like the emitted color but it can be made frequency specific. The public service commission has before it a petition to look at a statewide comprehensive lighting program to replace all lights that would be binding on cities.

C. Community Energy Project–Brian Kerns

City of Ellensburg WA is similar in demographics to Missoula. They have proposed an energy project along the interstate with solar panels. The 50KW project that cost \$225,000-\$300,000 and was largely citizen funded. Mr. Kerns talked about the details and related how a similar project may be able to proposed and initiated here. Talked about how it would/could benefit the major utility provider, community benefits, environmental benefit, good educational tie with new energy tech program with the University, and the possibility for federal and state incentives go back to the public.

The first critical step would be getting a commitment from the utility and council buy-in; then do a feasibility study and look at grant opportunities. Site options were thrown around.

VIII. **Action Item**

A. Forestry Initiatives–Jim Kuffel

City Council has requested we edit and come back with another version of this document. This is not a debate on whether or not to send the proposed resolution to the Conservation Committee, but is a rewording based on the CC request.

Conservation Committee members will be invited to attend and help with the rewrite. (1:30 – 2:00 pm reserved for this topic)

Matthew Koehler is present to discuss revisions as he has submitted a rewrite suggestion.

Mr. Kuffel provided an overview of how this topic came about with the team deciding to address it.

Mr. Schmidt recommended that the team follow the directive from Conservation Committee to focus on what the City can do; not the science aspect of this.

Mr. Koehler stated this rewrite came about from suggestions from numerous professionals basically indicating all the whereas statements should be omitted as they contain scientifically inaccurate

information. There are disagreements, which is fine, but I as a citizen do not want my City Council endorsing policy statements where the whereas statements are full of false or misleading information. The point to use locally produced wood products is a good goal to strive for and am in full support of that; and planting trees to aid in heating/cooling.

Discussion ensued and compromise was achieved with a final version of a policy statement to go to the Conservation Committee for Enhanced Forest Practices.

IX. Adjournment: *Mr. Schmidt* made motion to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.