



Minutes City Council's Community Sustainability Technology Sustainability Sub-Committee February 25, 2009

Minutes of the meeting of the City Council's Community Sustainability – Technology Sustainability Subcommittee held on Wednesday, February 25, 2009, 9:00 a.m., in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, Tempe City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Sub-Committee Members Present:

Vice Mayor Shana Ellis

City Staff Present:

Lisa Collins, Deputy Development Services Manager and Committee Liaison

Kathy Gasperich, Comm Dev

Mary Helen Giustizia, Solid Waste Svcs Dir

Lisa Lathrop, Administrative Asst. II/City of Tempe

David McNeil, Water Utilities

Bonnie Richardson, Transportation

Alex W. Smith, Tech Dev Specialist

Julie Stennerson, City Clerk's Office

Mark Vinson, Principal Architect/City of Tempe

Sheri Wakefield-Saenz, Econ Development

Guests Present:

Jason Bethke, Global Water

John Kane, Architekton

Ben Montclair, Carbon Free Technology

Denise van den Bossche

Vice Mayor Ellis called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. and everyone introduced themselves. She announced that Denise van den Bossche is the Co-Chair of this Committee.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances/Call to the Public

None.

Agenda Item 2 – Scope of Work: discuss and develop

Vice Mayor Ellis gave an overview of the Committee and how it was created. The Council's Community Sustainability Committee is composed of Mayor Hallman, Councilmembers Sherkerjian and Woods, and herself. There are three subcommittees. Economic Sustainability Subcommittee, chaired by Councilmember Shekerjian, Code Sustainability Subcommittee, chaired by Councilmember Woods, and this Technology Sustainability Subcommittee. There will be a lot of overlap in the subcommittees.

Vice Mayor Ellis read the draft Scope of Work: "Discuss and develop new methods and tools to encourage and assist in the use of new technology that uses sustainable energy modes; consider ways to emphasize the use of this new technology in redevelopment circumstances." The four main items will be solar, recycling, air quality and water.

John Kane asked for clarification regarding "redemption circumstances."

Ms. Collins responded that when this was discussed at the Community Sustainability Committee meeting, the goal was to use it city-wide, but to be even more conscientious about that when we are doing redemption. It wasn't to single it out, but when we are doing redemption, to really showcase it.

Mr. Kane suggested adding "also" before "consider ways to emphasize the use of this new technology in redemption circumstances."

There was discussion about changes to the scope of work.

There was a suggestion that if part of this is to encourage and assist in the use of new technology, then change it to "discuss and develop new methods, tools and creative financing methods to encourage and assist...." A public/private partnership can be an enabler for technology adoption. For each specific project, look at creative ways to pay for itself.

There was a question whether any of this is connected to job creation.

Ms. Collins responded that as projects come on line, they could come to this subcommittee and fit under some of the headings.

Vice Mayor Elli added that there have been meetings on the resources available, and many of the projects are still in their conceptual phase. One of the things that will help is the projects that are ready to go will get funded with the stimulus funds, then the capital improvement budget will have some monies freed up and some new creative projects can be filled in.

Mary Helen Giustizia asked if what this committee is focusing on is more relative to energy or is it a broader base of sustainability programs.

Vice Mayor Ellis responded that it would be a broader base.

Mr. Kane added that in the sustainability approach, especially when it comes to resources, there are two sides to the equation. First, how efficient is the structure? The green buildings have a tremendous amount of economic impact. Once the building is made efficient, then we look at energy generations. How much do you use and utilize whatever space available for generating energy thereby maximizing the resources that are available? Approaching it as a broad base sustainability consideration to all the technologies available on both sides of the equation, including water efficiency, air quality management is important.

Vice Mayor Ellis clarified that he was suggesting modifying the scope of work to expand the "uses sustainable energy modes" so that it doesn't limit it to energy, and changing it to "sustainability practices or programs."

Mr. Kane suggested that "technology" alludes to only one facet. He felt this was more the "sustainable practice" committee, rather than the "technology" committee.

Ms. Collins added that she was thinking of technology as a broader term so maybe the scope of work should state "technology and practices" for clarity.

Mr. Kane agreed. What is the purpose of the scope of work? Is it the greening of Tempe, is it economic stimulus?

Ms. Collins responded that the Council created subcommittees on issues they thought were important to the community. In December, when the Community Sustainability Committee first met, it was expressed that there were several people in the community that had frustrations with things that weren't happening, so the desire was not to spend a lot of time on creating a mission and goals, but to have these three subcommittees pull together the group of people interested in sustainability and find a few items that they were passionate about, develop a scope of work that describes that, an action plan so that the Council could approve it, and get it moving. It was based on a very practical level, not that the City doesn't have a sustainability goal, but the committee did not establish one.

Vice Mayor Ellis added that sustainability existed previously in the Transportation and Affordable Housing Committee. Development Services put together a compendium of all practices that were currently going on in the City government and they were charged with developing some ideas of what they could do short term and long term. The compendium was so extensive that the Mayor decided it needed to be housed in a separate committee. It is very broad.

Jason Bethke, Global Water, stated that there are ways to maximize efforts. They have gone through all of their consumables and power pieces and generate more reporting. For example, how much chlorine were they using at a particular site every day? They found that they were tending to use too much. Now they are doing that through a technology system. It might be a place to deploy existing technology the City might have in a different way to get some immediate benefits.

Ms. Collins summarized that the Scope of Work might say: "Discuss and develop methods, tools and creative financing methods to encourage and assist in the use of technology and sustainable practices; also, consider ways to emphasize the use of these technologies and sustainable practices in redevelopment circumstances."

Mr. Kane added that there are different components. First, there is information and education. If you can get enough people involved, it will blossom into something. Learning about how these green buildings happen, what were the lessons learned from delivering that, and what are the things that don't require budget line items but require getting the education out there? Second, once everyone is starting to be educated and there is bountiful information about the technologies and practices available, then it goes from general education to practices and starting to set standards of behavior and looking what technologies will most effectively get us to the goals that evolve. At the beginning, it might worth adding an education component in the scope, because that is the foundation of building.

It was agreed to remove the all the words "new" from the Scope of Work.

Ms. Collins will rewrite the Scope of Work and take it to Council for approval in March.

Agenda Item 3 – Action Items – develop projects and actions plans related to the following subjects: Solar, Recycling, Air Quality and Water

Ms. Collins summarized the action items:

- a. Solar
 - Photo voltaic cells to produce solar power on the O'Connor House and the Arizona Historical Society.
 - Discuss, develop other projects and action plans.
- b. Recycling
 - ERIC (educate/recycling information center)

- Discuss, develop other projects and actions plans
- c. Air Quality
 - Discuss, develop projects and action plans
- d. Water
 - Discuss, develop projects and action plans

There was discussion regarding the action items and it was agreed to change the action items to the following:

- a. Education/Information
- b. Technology/Practices
 - Resources
 - Energy

Mary Helen Giustizia reviewed the Education/Recycling Information Center (ERIC) unit. The ERIC unit is a mobile information center for the purpose of providing community outreach and education regarding recycling and solid waste practices. The unit will be partially funded by a \$60K grant provided by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. The remainder of the unit will be funded by an existing Solid Waste education program budget and revenues generated through the existing recycling program.

- ERIC will be a gooseneck trailer.
- Interior design will include hands-on, museum-quality interactive displays constructed of recycled materials.
- Exterior design will use graphics that convey messages related to improving solid waste practices.
- Focus on the three R's – Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.
- Venues where ERIC will be utilized – schools, businesses and events.
- Project to be completed by July 1st.

Ms. Giustizia continued that the Public Works Department anticipates that the ERIC unit will greatly enhance the education of existing and potential participants in the recycling program. Doing so will reduce the waste stream going to the landfill, reducing landfill costs and increase revenues from the sale of clean recyclable commodities, which help to offset the overall cost of the solid waste program.

Agenda Item 4 – Future Agenda Items

- South Water Treatment Plant – David McNeil
- Automatic Meter Reading/Billing – Jason Bethke
- Financing for ASU Solar Project
- Hudson Baylor/Recycling Program – Mary Helen Giustizia

Agenda Item 5 – Future Meeting Dates

March 25, 2009, at 9:30 a.m.

Agenda Item 6 - Announcements

Because of the special financial planning sessions, some of the sustainability subcommittee meetings may be combined.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Prepared by: Connie Krosschell
Reviewed by: Lisa Collins

Jan Hort, City Clerk