

MINUTES SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE

December 13, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Merry Rankin at 11:42 a.m. Those in attendance included: Tom Elston, Jennifer Malone, Corey Metzger, Adam Papesh, Gerry Peters, Vanessa Preast, Andrew Tulp, Monte Streit, James Gaunt, Don Kom, and Steve Schainker.

Moved by Corey Metzger, seconded by Tom Elston, to approve the November 29, 2010, minutes. Motion declared carried unanimously.

Vanessa Preast asked if it was planned to televise future meetings of the Task Force. Monte Streit thought because we post our minutes and the meetings were open to the public, he was satisfied with not televising the meetings on Channel 12.

Merry Rankin asked the members about the time line regarding future meetings (which was sent out previously). Jennifer Malone suggested that perhaps in the future, the group that performs energy audits could be invited to our meeting to explain how they work.

James Gaunt asked if there were any substantive changes to the time line from what was presented originally. Merry Rankin explained the dates had been solidified, while the subject matter remained unchanged. She emphasized that the sectors reports need to be completed by May 2011, but suggested a draft should be prepared by March/April to allow time for review before finalization.

Merry Rankin reminded the group that she sent out the report prepared by the Faith-Based sector that was provided by James Gaunt. It outlined the components expected in the final plan and should serve as an excellent tool that would be of assistance to the other sectors.

Vanessa Preast suggested creating the educational components as soon as possible. She had a number of names that she will share with Merry Rankin.

Merry Rankin reviewed the outline of the Plan report and the various components. The Task Force was reminded that the specifics related to the various sectors will be placed in the appendices of the final report.

Merry Rankin also reminded the members about the possibility of sponsoring a workshop with experts invited to assist the sectors with any questions they might have or information they might need. It was agreed that each sector will report back to Merry Rankin stating its support or opposition to a workshop.

Faith-Based Sector

Jim Gaunt reported that his group hadn't met again since the last Task Force meeting. They were working on excellent base load information from which each sector could benefit.

Building Construction/Developers Sector

Andrew Tulp advised that his group will focus on codes/guidelines. It is hoped that this approach will involve a voluntary approach. The sector also wanted to describe what other owners/contractors were doing. Corey Metzger suggested that the Residential, Business, and Building Construction sectors should work together.

Monte Streit warned against adopting requirements that are more restrictive than other cities, as new businesses may not want to locate in Ames.

Residential Sector

Corey Metzger reported that this sector met recently and would be stepping up its work.

Business Sector

Jennifer Malone explained that her group determined that energy audits would be a critical element of their recommendation. However, she found it very difficult to complete the information off the City's website necessary to apply for an audit. In addition, some property owners were hesitant to allow audits for fear of future requirements required to correct the situation.

Non-City Government Sector

Gerry Peters shared with the members a number of practices that the School District was considering, e.g., class schedule changes, a load-shedding generator, LED lamps, and automated thermostats.

Non-Profit Sector

Tom Elston stated that his group is planning to meet next week.

Don Kom, Director of the Ames Electric Services Department, briefed the members on the Smart Energy Program. This demand-side program is planned to have \$1,000,000 appropriated in the budget. To date, this rebate program has yielded over \$8,000,000 in avoided costs to the electric utility.

Jim Gaunt asked what the definition is of "cost effective" electrical reduction. It was mentioned that the City Council had not set a specific pay-back period. It will probably be whatever the individual sectors recommend it should be.

Jennifer Malone shared her experience with a non-profit agency where the contractor has not yet released the rebate funds to the agency. It was suggested that greater consumer education was needed so that contractors will not be able to hold the rebates hostage.

Jim Gaunt asked what the Council's plans were for discontinuing the operation of the coal-fired Power Plant. Don Kom explained that there were no such plans at this time. However, the City was supporting energy conservation and exploring ways to increase renewable energy sources. The need for a diversified approach to this issue was required.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m. The next meeting of the Sustainability Task Force will be January 10, 2011.