

## Minutes

### AMES SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE

July 18, 2011

#### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Merry Rankin at 11:40 a.m.

Those in attendance included Gerry Peters, Karen Shimp, Mary Jean Baker, Erv Klaas, Andrew Tulp, Tom Elston, Adam Papesh, along with Merry Rankin and Steve Schainker.

#### **Approval of June 13, 2011 minutes**

A quorum was not present so the minutes were not approved.

#### **Education Survey**

Merry Rankin explained the purpose of the educational survey that was sent out to meet the assignment of the City Council to determine what other entities are currently doing in the community regarding electricity/energy efficiency and sustainability as a whole. She asked members to share the survey with any other groups with whom they interact. Apparently, an interesting mix of entities is doing work in this area, but many groups have not made it a priority.

Erv Klaas indicated a current sustainability expert suggested in the business approximately 20% now have sustainability plans, which is considered a tipping point where we can expect many more to follow. So, Erv suggested if more than 20% indicate sustainability actions, it should be perceived as positive.

Merry Rankin indicated that her problem with the survey results is an inability to know the sample size with which we are dealing.

#### **Discussion of Sector Draft Reports**

Merry Rankin suggested the groups should consider prioritizing their recommendations. Erv Klaas explained that a new website for sustainability efforts would be the highest priority. Karen Shimp and Gerry Peters noted that although electrical consumption increased substantially since the new larger Middle School was built, the School District has reduced consumption by 19% since its opening. PPEL (Physical Plant and Equipment Levy) funds will be used to continue with energy efficiency improvements. Their priorities will be in creating Green schools. An emphasis will be on lighting for the District. Tom Elston reported the civic sector was looking for a new committee and support for follow-up tasks. Adam Papesh explained that the building sector will be providing a number of good ideas. They believe the Council might want to promote any new standards through incentives which could be monetary or through recognition. Baker explained that Faith-Based sector was not necessarily looking from anything directly from the City Council. They are focusing on a new program, Creation Care. The business and non-City governmental sectors were not represented at the meeting.

Karen Shimp asked whether the City should consider requiring all homes, including existing homes, to have Prime Time Power (load shedding devices) on the central air conditioners. Don Kom indicated that option was suggested to the City Council, but rejected because some customers philosophically are opposed to the City directly attaching to their homes.

Merry Rankin explained that all final reports along with the recommendations will be included in the written presentation to the Council. She will attempt to summarize common themes and present over-arching recommendations for Council consideration. It was agreed that each sector should inform Merry of their top two recommendations. Merry will plan to have the draft report by early August. She will be checking with the members to determine the next meeting date.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.