

Minutes
SUSTAINABILITY TASKFORCE MEETING

August 31, 2011

Call To Order

The meeting was called order at 11:15 a.m, by Merry Rankin. Those in attendance included: Erv Klaas, Mary Jean Baker, Tom Elston, Jim Guant, Gerry Peters, Jennifer Malone, Steve Schainker, and Don Kom.

Approval of Minutes

Since a quorum of the membership was not present, not approval of previous meeting minutes was possible.

Feedback From City Council Presentation

Steve Schainker complemented the group for their excellent presentation that seemed to be well-received by the City Council. They should be very proud that they took on a very complex task involving a number of different sectors in our community and created an integrated plan with priority recommendations for the Council to consider.

Where Do We Go From Here?

Erv Klaas presented a possible plan for the City Council to consider as next steps in accomplishing the Council's goal of "going green to promote environmental sustainability." Mary Jean Baker presented a proposal by AMOS regarding the next possible steps. Both proposals emphasized the Three Legged Stool that look at sustainability from an environmental, social, and economic perspective. It appeared from their presentations that where similarities in their approaches.

Those in attendance agreed that the Taskforce would recommend that:

- a new taskforce be appointed to include additional sectors and representatives from the County;
- the new taskforce would evaluate three frameworks (ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, The Natural Step Network, and Transition US) for guiding the community's sustainability efforts;
- through their research, the taskforce will educate the public and City Council research regarding the features, components, and results of each of these frameworks;
- the taskforce will offer a recommendation to the Council of which model, or combination of models, would be the best fit for a framework that would serve the sustainability interests and initiatives of both the City of Ames and Story County; and

- the taskforce will offer recommendations of action steps to pursue in moving forward with sustainability efforts under this recommended framework.

Since there was not a quorum present at this meeting to gauge the opinion of the majority of taskforce members regarding the proposal, it was agreed that an additional meeting was necessary to have a formal vote on the proposal. The City Clerk's Office will be sending out a doodle calendar to identify a possible date for the next meeting. It is hoped that this can be scheduled before the City Council's September 27th meeting.

Steve Schainker that the City Council could consider, at least, four possible options to proceed. First, they could opt to devote the next year to implementing the recommendations of the taskforce regarding the reduction in electrical consumption community-wide. Second, the Council could decide to continue their commitment environmental sustainability by assigning the taskforce to develop a plan for reducing water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, or natural gas consumption community-wide. Third, the Council could broaden their commitment beyond environmental sustainability by pursuing the recommendation of the taskforce.

Adjournment

Merry Rankin adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.