

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
JANUARY 14, 2008, 11 A.M. – 12 P.M.
MSCS Conference Room 4
Meeting Minutes

ATTENDING MEMBERS:

Mark Armstrong	Susan Gorin
Ed Buonaccorsi	Veronica Jacobi
Chris Carrieri	Frank Kasimov
Nick Carter	Rita Miller
Linda Christopher	Jane Rozga
Barbara Firestone	Dell Tredinnick
Joy Gipson	Tasha Wright

Introductions: The Environmental committee members introduced themselves to the group, going around the conference table. Dell Tredinnick welcomed all of the attendees.

Electrical Use Update: Nick Carter, owner of npc Solar, led the discussion on the need for free electrical vehicle charging stations in Santa Rosa. He called for the City of Santa Rosa to open its charging stations to the public and to encourage the growth of a wide infrastructure of independents with the support of the City. Nick stated that there are charging stations here with municipal access only and few commercial stations in Sonoma County, including those located at Harmony Farms in Sebastopol, at Oakmont, in Kenwood, at the Petaluma Outlet Mall, at Costco in Rohnert Park and on Dutton in Santa Rosa. He quoted Ed Huestis, known for creatively advancing alternative fuel vehicle use in the Vacaville, CA area: Ed said that he never had an issue with offering free charging, because the cost for the electricity used per charge was so nominal. Nick said that there is a huge array at the Bella Vista Road Park and Ride Lot and a wide infrastructure of charging stations throughout the Vacaville/Sacramento area. He added that electrical vehicle drivers think of Santa Rosa as a no go site, because there is no convenient place to charge, and that they choose to use the facility at the Rohnert Park Costco instead. Nick added that available charging stations in Santa Rosa would be good for business: drivers would have the opportunity to spend their money while charging their vehicles.

Nick discussed the different types of chargers, conductive and inductive, and the varying costs of installing them. He said that it is important to include conduits in the building code to make possible the eventual installation of chargers at a reasonable cost. Nick stated that one unit can reach four vehicles and addressed one concern about charging private vehicles at municipal stations. He suggested that City vehicle drivers have priority at the chargers: public drivers could leave their cell phone numbers, so that they could be reached when they've left their vehicles charging and told that their charging will be delayed. Nick stated that an average charge only costs from \$.15 to \$.50. Susan Gorin suggested that chargers be placed in public parking garages and the cost included in the parking fees. Dell stated that a solar powered facility would be ideal.

Dell proposed a meeting with a representative from Public Works, Veronica Jacobi, Susan Gorin, Sam Pierce, Nick Carter, Ed Huestis, and himself. Ed Buonaccorsi advised that the need for public access to charging stations be added to Sam's report, the Climate Protection Campaign's list of actions needed to reach the City of Santa Rosa's goal of green house gas reduction.

Zero Waste: Linda Christopher from Grassroots Recycling Network led a discussion on zero waste. She addressed some of the difficulties currently facing the County, including the increased complexities and costs of disposal and recycling, the lack of new landfills, and the dependency on hauling our waste out. She explained that a new approach is necessary and advised that zero waste makes the most sense. Linda stated that the primary strategies include mandatory source separation, no organic waste in the landfill, the revision of construction rules, and the extended producer responsibility, which affects the redesign of products. She used WECO Electronics of Southern California as an example of success: in 1994 they designed waste out of their system and achieved a 98% reduction and increased production. Susan suggested that the Committee look at what Oakland has achieved to see how zero waste works in a municipal system. Dell stated that the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency is looking at zero waste currently.

Earthroots Update: Tasha Wright stated that she met with the founders of Earthroots and is working with the Recreation and Parks Department on the idea of an Environmental Summer Camp offered by the City of Santa Rosa in 2009. She said that they are talking about having a short version of the camp in the summer of 2008 that might be two half day sessions. Tasha discussed a Garden Project; they are considering Doyle Park School for its location, where students could care for the garden during the school year. Susan mentioned Measure O funding for after school programs. She

said that she would like environmental leaning programs at various school sites, and that Agilent might be willing to subsidize them.

Solar Projects Update: Tasha reported that the City received the rebate check for \$91,052 from the California Energy Commission (CEC) for the Station IV solar project. She said that there are plans for another 5-10 MEG system at Brown Farm. Tasha also discussed her work with Solar Sonoma County and the grants that they are applying for.

Communication Outreach Update: Tasha said that the Outreach Subcommittee is working on an employee packet that is designed to provide simple tools that will teach employees about the environment. She said that they are considering including metal water bottles, reusable cloth shopping bags, and compact fluorescent light bulbs. Rita Miller suggested adding the "Healthy Home" brochures. Joy Gipson suggested including a bus map and Ride For Free information. Dell stated that Elise Howard is working with the Downtown Recycling Committee on the Bring Your Own Bag (BYOB) concept: it will be brought before the City Council, and there will be a study session on it soon. Susan stated that if City Council decides to promote BYOB, a giveaway at the Downtown Market would be a good idea.

Environmental Management System (EMS) System: Dell stated that Elise is busy preparing her team for the internal audit and the different divisions for the Third Party Audit.

Grant Update: Dell reported that we received a \$75,000 grant from the Air District for the Algae Project at the Laguna Treatment Plant (LTP), and Water Conservation received a similar amount. He said that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was in review for the production of biodiesel fuel from reclaimed grease. Dell said that there will be a private/public partnership between the City of Santa Rosa, the Water Agency, and Community Fuels; the plan is to build a plant at LTP.

Announcements:

Susan Gorin stated that she is excited about the ideas that have been discussed in today's meeting and is looking forward to Sam Pierce's Climate Protection Campaign (CPC) report that is due soon outlining alternate ways for the City of Santa Rosa to achieve its greenhouse gas reduction target.

Barbara Firestone suggested that a request for agenda items be included in the monthly reminder email for upcoming meetings. She advised committee members of the availability of colorful nylon "bring your own" bags that clip on at Andy's Produce on Highway 116 in Sebastopol.

Rita Miller announced that the Watershed Association Conference will take place on April 4th at the Sheraton Hotel in Petaluma on water, energy, and climate change.

Chris Carrieri discussed the concept of "Creating a Place to Be" authored by Joe Kennedy, faculty member of New College. He stated that it is time for the Second Annual Community Improvement Event, which involves the creation of places that encourage coming together, or just being, which could be a bench, kiosk, memorial, sculptures, or open spaces. Chris announced the receipt of a \$30,000 grant by the Green Building Action Development Coalition from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

Jane Rozga announced that the Green Building Summit, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and PG&E, will be on February 1st at the Redwood Credit Union.

Action Item: Barbara will forward Jane's information to committee members.

Nick Carter suggested that the City create an incentive plan similar to Water Conservation's Cash for Grass program for the encouragement of planting more edibles in gardens of residents: it could be called Cash for Food.

Veronica Jacobi expressed interest in inserting a flyer into the monthly utility bill outlining some simple measures that citizens might take to help reduce greenhouse gasses. Dell stated that she can contact him and his staff for assistance: information from PG&E and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) could be synthesized and made specific for Santa Rosa. She discussed two programs, The Art of Climate Change which occurs 4 times per year and Step It Up which occurs twice per year. She asked that those interested in helping contact her. Veronica said that last Friday's Climate Change event had an overflow crowd and expressed concern that the Climate Change event this Wednesday will be also. Some options were suggested, including City Council Chambers, Finley Center, the Veterans' Building, and Redwood Credit Union.

Mark Armstrong stated that the rest of the Yard buildings at the Municipal Services Center will comply with the cool roof coding by summer 2008. He said that it is a half million dollar project.

Ed Buonaccorsi stated that the City Hall landscape project will go through the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) process and City Council prioritization. He said that it is possible that it will cost as little as \$880,000. He announced the Spring Clean Volunteer event on May 3rd, adding that anyone that provides a service can have a spot for a table, and if interested, can contact him. He said that the focus is Roseland.

Joy Gipson was excited to share that the City's first hybrid bus arrived Saturday. She said that the converted Gillig was removed from the fleet one year ago, because it did not meet standards and was sent to Los Angeles to be converted into a gas-electric hybrid. She said that she will update us next month. Joy told the committee members that those who attend her Learn to Ride the Bus class receive an insulated shopping class at completion. She said that the class is 30-45 minutes long, followed by a bus ride.

Frank Kasimov stated that he joined Joy and rode the bus to the meeting this morning. Joy stated that ending the meeting around 12:30 PM makes it convenient to ride the bus back to Downtown Santa Rosa.

Action Item: Barbara will change the meetings from ending at noon to ending at 12:30 PM, a more realistic time.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: February 11, 2008 at 11:00 A.M. at the Municipal Services Center South (MSCS) in Conference Room 4.