

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
January 14, 2009, 11 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.
Municipal Services Center South Conference Room 5
Meeting Minutes

ATTENDING MEMBERS:

Chris Carrieri – Community Advisory Board
Jane Rozga – CH2MHILL
Dell Tredinnick – City of Santa Rosa
Mark Armstrong – City of Santa Rosa
Steve Brady – City of Santa Rosa
Peter Brown – City of Santa Rosa
Autumn Buss – City of Santa Rosa
Nicole Dorotinsky – City of Santa Rosa

Gina Perez – City of Santa Rosa
Joy Gipson – City of Santa Rosa
Lisa Grant – City of Santa Rosa
Tasha Wright – City of Santa Rosa

Introductions: Dell Tredinnick welcomed members who introduced themselves to the group.

Approval of Minutes for November 12, 2008 Meeting: Dell asked the group if there were any changes to the minutes, hearing no one, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Update on Various Green House Gas Work Group Activities:

- **AB32:** Peter Brown stated that Community Development has established a Green House Gas (GHG) work group and Gillian Hayes is the chair. The group is reviewing AB31 Scoping Plan to see what the thresholds for CEQA review are. Peter said a letter was sent to the State and went to City Council in December. Mark Armstrong shared a letter that he received regarding monitoring of GHG's at the fuel station and he stated that thresholds were not being made. Mark said he would send out the letter and response by email.
- **Community Action Plan (CAP):** Dell said that the Climate Protection Campaign (CPC) had been hired by the City to develop the CAP and that three different studies are on their way. The results of the Citywide efforts will be brought to City Council by Ed Buonaccorsi on February 3rd. Dell said it will be difficult to meet the CAP because of PG & E, the City's energy provider, currently offers only 20% renewable energy. Transportation continues to be an issue because 30,000 vehicles need to be replaced with electric. Autumn Buss noted that the CAP report can be found on the CPC website.
- **RCPCP:** This is an attempt to join common efforts in the surrounding areas, develop a common approach and provide a vehicle for funding. Dell reported that the Sonoma County Transportation Authority is the lead agency and the search continues for a Chair.
- **BIG Task Force:** Dell updated the group on the task force headed by Chuck Regalia and Dick Dowd. The previous focus was on new construction for commercial, industrial, and municipalities. The new focus will be for existing structures, and housing. The first meeting of the implementation team is scheduled for Friday. Jane Rozga asked if the new group will be looking at how close the City is to reaching the goals set for reduction and Mark responded that answers will be presented at the 2/3 Council meeting.

General Plan Update: Peter Brown reported that the Housing Element of the General Plan needs to be updated by June 2009 so the plan will be taken to Council by that time. The draft plan is complete and available on the web for free, on disk for \$5.00 and in hard copy for \$43. The plan has added features like identifying items that help reduce GHG with a leaf symbol and also by adding a GHG reduction list to the appendix. The draft plan is currently being reviewed by the various Advisory Committees and then it will be taken to City Council for adoption.

Council Goal Setting Process: Dell reported that the Council Goal Setting Process is set to happen at the end of February with release of those goals set for March.

Revisiting the Environmental Committee Meeting Schedule: Dell suggested that the meeting schedule remain unchanged until we find out who the City Council appointees will be, check their availability and wait until the goal setting is done. He said he would continue to look at meeting venue changes to encourage attendance.

Roundtable Updates: The group went around the table and gave updates on the various activities of their departments/organizations.

- Joy Gipson reported that employees have reduced 97,000 miles through the Free Ride Program.
- Chris Carrieri reported that there was no meeting in December but that the Community Advisory Board (CAB) needs a fresh impetus from City Council because their mission remains unclear. Chris discussed topics that will be coming forward to CAB and asked why Santa Rosa hasn't considered a ban on foam and plastic food ware.
- Nicole Dorotinsky gave an update on the Algae Project; reported that the project has received a \$1,000 award from Pearson Education and that Phase 2 will be to build the digesters.
- Tasha Wright reported on AB811; gave an update on Solar Sonoma County; reported on the status of the 65 kW solar array at Laguna Treatment Plant and the 30 kW array at the new West College Facility.
- Steve Brady reported that negotiations continue with the Regional Board on the Draft Storm Water Permit and that the Board seems receptive to the City's comments. A new draft could come out in February with a final in June. Staff continues to prepare projects in case the Economic Stimulus plan moves forward.
- Gina Perez provided an update on the Board of Public Utilities and reported that Stephen Gale and Rick Meechan are the new appointees.
- Mark Armstrong reported on the lighting upgrade that is taking place and noted that while it is providing better quality lighting it does take time to get used to. A rebate of \$20,000 was received and the lighting will save about \$15,000 per year in energy costs.
- Lisa Grant reported that she had received a stop work notice from the State for her Urban Forestry Grant; the two interns working on the project are no longer working, and she is unsure about who will be liable to pay the contractor.
- Autumn Buss attended on behalf of Frank Kasimov and reported on the City's Downtown Program; requested ideas for "green projects" downtown, and asked for ideas about what makes Santa Rosa a sustainable community.
- Dell spoke about the Green Cities Conference scheduled for May.
- Jane Rozga suggested that recyclable receptacles should be in every conference room. They are in most of the rooms but there are still some that don't have them available.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 at 11:00 A.M.