

Heart of the City

January 8, 2007 – Police Station

Present: Beth Gehred, Kimberly Wenger, Joan Callan, Leslie LaMuro, Jill Ottow, John Ottow, Josie Gobel, Anders Yocom, Ann Englemann, Lue Ehnger, Roger Martin, Margaret Martin, Cathy Misfeldt, Bill Camplin, Kitty Welch, Mary Gates, Mark Furst, Janice Furst, Paul Habel, Randy Goals, Sherry Goals, Jae Ames, Steve Tesmer

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by President Beth Gehred.

Last month's minutes approved.

Truth to Power Moment: Kitty Welch – Reading from a book by Bill Kunstler.

Video: Design E2 – The Green Machine - Introduced by Anders Yocom

Green building initiatives being undertaken by the City of Chicago.

Discussion: Bill Camplin talked about progress Electric/Hybrid automobile technology and what kind of impact that can have on the City environment.

Anders raised the question of Mayor Daley's "strong arm" tactics in bringing about positive change. The group discussed the ways citizens can effect change within the community and act as a resource for city government and staff.

Cathy Misfeldt expressed optimism that today's youth have access to information about environmental and may come around to make positive change in the future.

Treasurers Report: Current balance \$865.29

Committee reports:

Projects:

Next meeting 6:00 pm Feb 12.

Current project: Community Garden. Met with Peggy Sundquist, County Parks dept volunteer coordinator, looking for people interested in working on the project.

Public Policy/Govt Relations:

Focus will be on April election, plan to go to High School to register students to vote again. Will meet Friday 10:00 Café Carpe

Education & Outreach:

Signed John Wilmet on to speak at February 12 HOC meeting.

Letters went out to several groups to offer speakers.

Thanks to Ed & Out for keeping on top of public relations, HOC has a much higher level of awareness due to their efforts.

Jae Ames suggested that HOC can come and speak during public input portion of Town of Koshkonong meetings.

Website:

John Ottow is working on the site. He asks that when people send content to be added to the website, be very explicit about where you want it added and exactly how it should be worded.

Old Business

2nd annual Big Heart Award award will be presented in February. Steering Committee will narrow the list at the next Steering Committee meeting.

Ad Hoc committee on Climate Protection will be meeting Monday Jan 15, 6:00 pm, Council Chambers of Municipal Building. Looking for people to write letters to the editor, City Council about the issue of Global Warming.

Wrap up report on Shop Locally day will be posted on HOC website.

Glacial Heritage meeting coming up on January 24.

Beautification Council is interested in merging with HOC. Bill Camplin suggested sending a letter to Al Haukom inviting them to our meetings. Steering committed will discuss next step.

New Natural Step study circles will be starting up in Jefferson this winter. Planning to start new study circles in Fort this Spring (possibly as early as February).

Rumer has it that the Jefferson Wal-Mart project has been delayed.

Sustain Dane is having a study circle facilitator training in Stoughton, Sunday January 14.

New Business

Jill Ottow suggests that new attendees be encouraged to consider committee involvement.

Mark Furst will be talking about Focus on Energy at the Library on February 1. Mark is starting a business doing energy audits.

Steve Tesmer thanked everyone for helping to collect signatures for City Council Nomination.

Beth went to Wisconsin Local Food Initiatives meeting, has information available.

Beth thanked Ann Englemann for her ongoing work at organizing information and distributing to the membership.

Next Steering Committee Meeting - January 22, location TBD. Main focus of meeting will be Big Heart award.

Next General meeting February 12 Café Carpe. John Wilmet will be speaking.

Announcements

Kitty read announcement on Arbor Day – free trees.

Adjournment: 8:38 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Steve Tesmer