

Heart of the City

February 13, 2006, Café Carpe

Present: Anders Yocom, Beth Gehred, Lue Ehinger, Mary Gates, Mary Linton, Kathy Kaufmann, Jill Kessenich, Steve Tesmer, Jill Ottow, Leslie LaMuro, Ann Engelman, Bill Camplin, Rollie Cooper, Tony Pavlick, Greg Idzikowski, Greg David, Greg Misfeldt, Karen Reinhart, Julie Short

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by President Anders Yocom.

Last month's minutes approved.

Announcements:

Andy: Took a moment to recognize all of the great work being done by HOC members, including the positive press received recently in the Daily Union.

Inspirational Moment:

Ann Engelman read a Loraine Niedecker poem.

Treasurers Report:

\$510.65 currently in treasury

Big Heart Award:

Leslie, Jill O, Beth showed the plaque and other items to be presented to Scott Lastusky and Rudy Bushcott.

Speakers:

Beth introduced Rollie Cooper and Tony Pavlick of Whitewater-based Citizens for Global Solutions. CGS brought the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement before the Whitewater city government. The Agreement was originally developed by the Mayor of Seattle and has been signed by 180 city mayors. CGS went to city manager (Kevin Brunner) with the agreement, the city was already taking measures in this direction, and the city manager encouraged council to adopt. One councilman opposed, and after debate, the resolution passed 4-2 with one abstention. The agreement is a pledge to take several steps to reduce global warming. 12 points to work toward. Seattle has an office of Sustainability which can be used as a resource.

John Patterson, a Whitewater professor helped the group approach the city manager.

Bill C: Whether approved or not, it will raise important issues for next election cycle.

Gets debate going.

Jill O: HOC either should form new committee or refer to Govt. relations. Suggested sponsoring a forum to help educate the council and citizens before presenting to city council.

Cities that have adopted: Madison, West Allis, La Crosse, Duluth, Wauwatosa, Highland Park IL.

<http://www.seattle.gov/mayor/climate/>

Motion: Jill O/Mary L: Direct interested members to explore the issue of US mayors Climate Protection Agreement of bringing it to the City Manager & City Council. Passed unanimously.

The following people volunteered to work on this issue: Beth Gehred, Lue Ehinger, Bill Camplin, Steve Tesmer

Beth introduced Julie Short to talk about highway 12 bypass. At this stage, the DOT has narrowed down the options, and wants to make a final selection soon. The Friends of Koshkonong have formed to encourage DOT to adopt "Do Nothing" option. Have raised approximately \$7,000, and retained a Madison lawyer. Have made an open records request for records of transaction between DNR, EPA and DOT. Negative Environmental impact is probably strongest card in fighting the bypass. Also coordinating with Friends of Allen Creek. She believes HOC mission is consistent with Friends of Koshkonong. Looking for more creative solutions, rather than the current piecemeal, short term thinking that has taken place.

Beth: Would letters to the editor help?

Steve T: City of Fort appears to currently be leaning toward picking a preferred route, but then indicating that we do not feel it is needed in the foreseeable future. Julie: Once a route is chosen, it will be built. DOT is pushing this project.

Andy: what is the driving force? Bill: 2020 traffic project.

Julie: This is an example of "Downstream approach", go back to source of problem, look at bigger picture, is building more roads the only solution?

Jill O: 2020 plan is based on assumption that car use will continue to increase.

Ann: Has town of Koshkonong stated that they support no build? Would a unified message from City and Town make a stronger statement?

Julie: David Ward has said there is not much that can be done, Fitzgerald has also been unresponsive.

Leslie: Whitewater is an example of bypass that should not have happened.

Andy: Has this come to the attention of County Board? Greg David: There should be a representative from the county board on the committee. Greg was on the committee for northern hwy 12 bypass, and found it a very frustrating experience.

Jill O: Will there be an opportunity for citizens to address the City Council on this before they take a vote? Steve: no public hearing is scheduled to his knowledge.

Andy: Can Julie provide written materials, talking points, examples of letters, etc.

Public input: Steve Tesmer proposes change to Council meeting format to allow public input at meetings.

Chuck: Fort Collins: allocates 1/2 hour total regardless of number of people.

Motion (Jill O/ Greg M) HOC write a letter to City requesting a public hearing on highway 12 bypass before the City Council prior to voting on City voting on an option.

Committee reports:

Outreach/Education

Karen R showed display boards she has developed, Velcro panels with photos, brochures, information.

Jill O: looking for volunteers at Science Fair on Saturday 1:00 – 4:00 at the armory.

Karen/Kitty volunteered for 12:20 – 2

Jill O: Speakers Bureau looking for additional participants. Currently: Kitty, Beth, Leslie, Andy, Ann, Bill, Karen

Kitty & Beth working on a column for the Daily Union. Kitty talked to Gail Boos regarding a "Planet Well" feature on HOC.

Public Policy/Govt

Developing a strategic planning guide, steps to effect change within local govt.

Recommend formation of a committee to start advance work on Master Plan.

Ann: Send out an appeal for people on the email list to participate by joining a committee, Speakers Bureau.

Andy suggests refer to Steering Committee.

Drafted letter to Land Trust requesting cooperation.

Joe Nehmer will be speaker at March meeting.

Candidate forums upcoming.

Projects

Proposing a Bark River Nature Trail celebration day. June 3 as possible date. Early morning birding trip, public talk (history), Childrens program, Lunch, Canoe trip.

Possible conflict: Literacy bike ride in Lake Mills.

Motion (Ann/Greg M) HOC support the Bark River trail celebration day.

Passed unanimously.

New business

Kitty: Rain Garden Project: Area behind car wash has drainage problems, Margret Burlingham spoke with Rudy Bushcott about the project. Possible grants for project.

Sustain Dane presenting speaker: John Degraff, Feb 24 7:00.

Bill: Need to get candidates on the slate for next election cycle. Lue spoke with Chuck Franzen, who may be open to running.

Next Meeting

Monday, March 13; 7:00 pm - Café Carpe

Steering Committee

Monday, February 27; 6:00 Lue's house.

Adjournment 8:53