

Heart of the City

September 19, 2005; Café Carpe

Present: Jill Kessenich, Mary Linton, Greg Misfeldt, Steve Tesmer, Mary Gates, Lue Ehinger, Kathy Kauffman, Bill Camplin, Paul Hable, Rachel Davey, Beth Gehred, Ann Penfield, Cathy Zimmerman, John Foust, Leslie LaMuro, Jill Ottow, John Callan, Bob LaMuro

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by facilitator Chuck Ogg.

Inspirational Moment (Truth To Power): Beth Gehred – Deep Ecology

Discussion of Inspirational moment in the future. Jill Ottow suggested that this segment could also be used for personal anecdotes, etc. Beth suggests "Truth to Power" and "Success Stories". Jill O suggested to leave the topic up to presenter. Chuck O: someone should be responsible at each meeting.

Motion: each meeting someone gives inspirational moment. Person to be determined by steering committee. Motion passed.

Approval of minutes: Motion: Leslie L/Jill K

Announcements

Jill O: "Car Free Day" Sept 22 – try to get around without car for a day.

Beth G: Simple Lifestyle calendar; Community Emergency Response training program; Wisconsin Sustainability Fair - UW Oshkosh Oct 6; Beth attended Rock River Coalition event, represented HOC at roundtable discussion.; Midwest Renewable Energy Assn tour of homes coming up end of Sept.; Bryant Moroder of Sustain Dane needs volunteers for Rain Barrel installation and pot luck Oct 1.; Volunteers needed for Sustainability SuperStore this Saturday's Farmers Market.

Leslie L: AAUW used book sale this weekend

Chuck O: Could announcements be sent out via e-mail prior to meeting?

Presentation

Paul Hable on School Referendum. Opportunity to take control of funding of school district, provide for funding out to 2016.

1. Needed building upgrades. Barry, Rockwell, Purdy, Middle School (original steam boilers 76 years old)
2. Structural financial deficit
3. Technology needs

Technology needs: State TEACH grant ended in 2003Q
Structural Financial Deficit: Growth of school revenue limited to 3% annually. QEO requires schools to offer wage/benefit increase of 3.8% to avoid arbitration. Approx 0.2% Inflation on supplies each year.
Structural deficit = approx 1% of total budget annually (\$230,000/year)
Referendum October 18, all 3 aspects on one question.
Average property tax increase would \$230 per year per household.
Referendum funds will cover structural deficit until 2015/16

Geothermal. Rachel Davey, Architect, Purdy parent.
Takes 55 degree ground temp, uses heat pump to achieve desired temperature.
Bob LaMuro discussed some of the technical aspects of geothermal/heat pump.

Paul Hable asked HOC to take a position in support of referendum.

Motion to extend discussion (Beth G/Steve T) Decided to extend 5 minutes.

Motion for HOC to support (Paul Hable/Lue. E)
Discussion, Bill Camplin brought up issues related to property tax increase, impact on taxpayers. He supports the referendum and plans to vote yes, but has concerns about the group endorsing.
Leslie L: believes HOC could easily stand behind Geothermal. But since it is all or nothing we should support the entire package.
Beth G: Believes this represents quality of life issues, in line with HOC policy, but shares Bill's concern about "Unheard Masses".
Suggestion was made that Paul Hable and Bill C. write a letter, allow HOC steering committee to endorse or not. If approved it will be submitted to paper signed by HOC.

Committee reports

Community projects:

Mary Linton, 3 projects: 1) Bike Trail/River Walk cleanups in spring. 2) Invite someone from State Focus on Energy come to present on Energy efficient homes. 3) Bark River trail day to raise awareness of BRT.

Outreach/Education:

Leslie LaMuro, have draft press release, working on brochure, talking points for Sustainability store, rain gardens.

Public Policy & Government relations:

Bill Camplin was asked join this committee and agreed to do so. Purpose of committee: liason between HOC and local government. Possible speakers suggested: Bruce Hokum, Paul Christianson, Sheldon Mielke.

Bylaws

Discussion of dues:

Suggest using original due structure from brochure.

Beth & Mary L: expressed concern about making dues payment condition of membership. Leslie suggested sponsorship in case of hardship.

Jill O: Many organizations have dues but don't require for membership.

Karen R: Afraid of HOC becoming too beaurocratic, no longer grassroots.

Lue E: new level of organization is helping the group make progress.

Jill K: does anyone recall original discussion of dues, and how it got put in old brochuere?

Jill O: dues were not required, in favor of dues but does not want them required as condition of membership.

Chuck: It is good to have some way of determining membership, particularly in case of controversial issue.

Bob L: Let people know what benefit of paying dues is.

Chuck O: if we don't use dues, how do we determine membership, particularly in voting situations?

Paul H: If no basis for determining membership is established, future corporate interest could flood meetings to push an agenda.

Motion to substitute "Dues Paying" with "Active" in bylaws. Motion passed.

Discussion of voting provision:

Chuck uncomfortable with simple majority, potential for deep division in group on controversial issue, better to strive for consensus.

Mary L: concerned about one member repeatedly forcing vote by opposing consensus position.

Cathy Z: pointed out that in both Jefferson & Stoughton it was requirement for 2/3 vote that stopped annexation.

Motion to accept 2/3 for second vote over 3/4 (Bill C/Jill K). Motion passed.

New Business

Bill C, Would like another greenbelt session.

Lue E: Should we be concerned about Curtis Mill subdivision?

Bill: Planning commission tabled approval of this development. HOC needs to be very active in future planning/zoning sessions to have input into rural developments like this.

Ann P: Highway 12 bypass, is our group involved? Committee meeting scheduled September 27 6:30 at high school, open to public.

Ann P: Boring going on on Shimming farm, northwest corridor, does anyone know about possible development? Target/Home Depot?

Jill O: Is it possible that some company is looking into development?

Steve T: Will ask City Manager about development on Shimming property.***

John Foust. City is renewing cable franchise with Charter. This is the time for citizen input. Cable committee should look at studios in surrounding communities.

Karen R was involved in Whitewater cable negotiation which resulted in Whitewater Cable access TV. Anders is on Cable Committee.
Cable issue will be put on next month's HOC agenda

Next meeting October 10, 7:00 pm, Café Carpe.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm
Heartfully submitted,
Steve Tesmer

***Addendum: John Wilmet was contacted and asked about the reported engineering work taking place in the Northwest corridor. He said that the city has not been contacted by anyone expressing an interest in the property at this time, so he does not know who has contracted the work. He indicated that there are rumors that Home Depot and/or Aurora Health are interested in the property. He did confirm that an engineering company is performing survey work at the request of a client (who is unknown to the city at this time). As soon as the city is contacted by the interested party, their identity will be made public.

-Steve Tesmer