

## Notes October 2004

Dear Hearts,  
Following are the notes from October 21, 2004.

### Next Meetings:

November 18, 6:00, location TBA

December 16, 6:00, location TBA

### Highlights

- 1) Beth provided additional information on her trip to Sweden. Full report below.
- 2) Hearts are interested in a study group around the book "The Natural Step for Communities, How Cities and Towns Can Change To Sustainable Practices"; Sign up sheet was passed around.
- 3) Jill presented residential plans with green space in mind.
- 4) Ideas generated about how to promote sustainability concept.
- 5) Question of group focus was raised.

### 1) Beth Report

She noted that there is a greater level of consciousness in Sweden about the environment and responsible growth. They use a bottom up approach, starting from where they want to be and then planning towards it. They plan across city sectors and invest in local culture and local economy. They also actively promote supporting community sustainability and world interdependence. (A slogan that is reaching some of the youth that promotes nature, "It's so fucking fresh"; appears on t-shirts.) Communities take advantage of what they have and grow on individual strengths. There are four principles:

#### FOUR GUIDING OBJECTIVES

- Eliminate our community's contribution to fossil fuel dependence and to wasteful use of scarce metals and minerals.
- Eliminate our community's contribution to dependence upon persistent chemicals and wasteful use of synthetic substances.
- Eliminate our community's contribution to encroachment upon nature. (e.g. land, water, wildlife, forests soil, eco system)
- Meet human needs fairly and efficiently.

### 2) Hearts are interested in how to apply the concepts. There is interest in a study group.

A sign up sheet went around to begin a study group around the book "The Natural Step for Communities, How Cities and Towns Can Change To Sustainable Practices"; Sarah James and Torbjorn Lahti. (There is a 10 week course around the book. The authors will be in the area again.) This might help us understand the cultural thinking that must change in order to put these principles in practice. How we might apply the principles here. Beth and Kim Hagemeyer will set up the first group.

Other questions were asked. Can grants help us hire someone to facilitate the concept in our community? Could money be raised to send a city official to Sweden to explore sustainable ideas for Fort? How can developers be involved? How do we overcome the perception that this is a "fringe" concept but an economically viable one? How do we approach the business community?

### 3) Jill has drawn up a variety of residential plans illustrating how to make best use of green space. As this greenbelt concept comes together Hearts are encouraged to collect resources around how the sustainable concept would be put into practice. For example:

- Kitty talked about Soldiers Grove, Wisconsin, flooded in 1980, rebuilt away from the flood plain and planned as a solar community. They started from the desire that it should all be solar and

passed the ordinances to be solar. There are many other examples on their Web site. (sorry don't have the URL)

- The DNR is looking at Jefferson County for a land preservation partnership.
- Research other sustainable communities including Middleton, Crestwood in Madison and others.
- WORLD DESK by DK Publishing - Book looks at the world communities. Good resource for comparisons. Bill has a copy if you want to review it

4) Many ideas to promote sustainability were suggested:

- Alternative Energy Fair
- The community that is powered off the land fill
- Beth's presentation for Rotary
- Have a Visioning Day including local business, civic groups and developers.
- Press release to papers about Study Group
- Press release about how others are participating and what they are learning
- Take activities to schools, kids clubs, 4-H, Future Problem Solvers, Science Fairs
- Promote "simplify your life"; which is a growing movement
- Identify UW and other resource people to get involved

Quote from Amy that resonated with many, "What we need is a radical shift of what it means to be a human being on this planet."  
Also, another (sorry don't remember from who)

"Sustaining is about living and surviving. . .and there is a difference."

Idea about inviting developers to tell us about their jobs- have them tell us how they go about deciding where and what to develop, what goals they are trying to achieve, what factors they consider. Maybe through that process we can eventually ask them how community values fit in with their picture, and give suggestions as to how we can both achieve our objectives.

Your Humble Heart  
Ann

Beth shared this poem:

Sustainability is about humanity  
About our human frailty  
Sustainability is about vulnerability  
The vulnerability in interdependent relationships

We live for better or worse  
In our marriage to all around  
"Do you take this earth and every being there on, to cherish and love?"  
And we all answered "YES!"  
With your first screaming breath in the world

Sustainability is about caring for relations  
Our relation to heaven and earth  
To molecules and lichen  
Our relation to things, to coffee cups and small summer cabins  
Our relation to each other  
To my brother and to George W Bush  
Our relation to ourselves  
To our fears and dreams  
(which can be scarily similar)

Our relations are our vulnerability and our strength  
Our fragility  
Our everything

Sustainability is to embrace the vulnerability  
To love the shivering, shouting life  
And to have and to hold.

Bjorn Eriksson