

# Heart of the City

January 14, 2008 – Café Carpe

Present: Kitty Welch, Paul Hable, Katie O'brien, Beth Gehred, Jill Ottow, Josie Gobel, Mary Linton, Pat Kubisiak, Frankie Fuller, Elain Johnson, Jim Pick, Joan Callan, Bill Camplin, Steve Clein, John Reel, Eda Duesterhoeft, Andy Jorgensen, Steve Tesmer

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm by President Kitty Welch.

Approval of December 2007 meeting minutes. (Jill O, Beth)

**Truth to Power Moment:** Beth read from Wendell Barry poem.

## Treasurer's report:

End of year balance: \$1,415.23

Paul recommends that a small group be formed to perform an audit of financial records.

Jill Ottow suggested that Susan Wenger might be willing to do that for us.

Beth Gehered thanked Paul for performing diligently as treasurer.

## Committee reports

**Projects:** Josie reported on Community Gardens: have done advanced registration for last year's participants. Already have 21 plots registered. Posters are being distributed for upcoming educational event on gardens in Vermont, planning to have monthly events. Joan Callan reported on trash bin reuse. Working with schools to decorate the containers.

## Big Heart Award

### Nominations:

- 1) **Kathy & Jeff Ide** - for all the work they do with high school kids (Beth Gehred).
- 2) **VyMac/Verlo** - for their contribution toward LED traffic lights, and also restoring an existing downtown building, and incorporating green building practices (Leslie LaMuro)
- 3) **Greg Greenhalgh** – For giving his time and financial support to several community projects (Garden by Post Office, Water Tower Restoration, Blackhawk) (Lue Ehinger)
- 4) **Dennis & Linda Geszvain** – Providing local food resource largely based on locally grown produce, and stepping up to help out families in need (Steve Tesmer)
- 5) **Fort Atkinson City Council** – for adopting Climate Protection Resolution (Jill Ottow)
- 6) **Daily Jefferson County Union** - for work done in raising awareness of sustainability and environmental issues, locally and nationally, and for being an independently owned local business (Beth Gehred)
- 7) **Fort Atkinson Thrift shop** – Collected clothing and housewares for reuse, all volunteer organization, donated money to non-profit organizations, including scholarships (Kitty Welch)

**Winner: Greg Greenhalgh**  
**Second Place: Verlo & Thrift Shop (Tie)**  
**Third Place: Geszvains & Daily Union (Tie)**

**Nominations for 2009 Big Heart award:**

- 1) **Karen Johnson-Tuten** - for organizing a recycling program at the high school (Kitty Welch)
- 2) **Fort Atkinson Historical Society** – for recycling materials from Griffiths house (Jill Ottow)

***Announcements***

**Focus the Nation Update**

Kitty gave a report on the National Day of Teaching on Global Warming. Wednesday, January 30, 7:00 pm, Public Library – live interactive webcast: "The 2% Solution". Planning to do some outreach to high schools for participation. Discussed doing a mailing to people who had participated in past environmental events. Posters and other resources are available on the Focus the Nation website.

**Griffiths House Update**

House next to Hoard Museum was purchased by the Fort Atkinson Historical Society. Steve Tesmer described efforts made by Historical Society

**Project Lead Update**

Project adopted by group is a public restroom in the Park by the Robert Street Bridge on the Bike Trail. Plan is to incorporate green design in the facility.

**Fort Healthcare**

Katie O'brien reported on a presentation being planned to educate hospital leadership on Global Warming and environmental issues. Plan in place to form a "Green Team" to look at environmental issues on an ongoing basis.

**Atkinson Diet Bags Update**

Sentry would like to sell the reuseable bags. Kitty is working with Logo-Works to have them silkscreened. Discussed setting price for bags, previously had charged \$6 per bag but silkscreening is going to cost more.

Jill O suggested developing a display with information about HOC for placement at Sentry with the bags.

Motion: Authorize Kitty to determine price based on our costs (Jill O/Steve T) Passed

**Earth Day**

Kitty mentioned an idea to give Hospital employees reusable bags for Earth Day.

Kitty described a musical event in Pewaukee that was powered by bicyclists. Pepsi has picked up the idea for the Super Bowl and is sponsoring a bike powered event. She suggests that HOC put on an event powered by bicycles, possibly team with Bike Club for Earth Day.

**Sustainable Communities and Farms Conference**

Private/Public conference to be held in September. HOC has been asked to participate in the conference. Cynthia Holt plans to attend one of their planning meetings. Will discuss at upcoming steering committee meeting.

**Conservation Lobby Day**

Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters sponsored event. Wednesday, January 30. Beth attended last year. Contact Kitty if you would like to attend.

**Chamber Retail Committee Meeting Update**

Kitty would like to organize a presentation for the Retail Committee meeting in February.

**Jefferson County Visitors Guide**

Eda Duesterhoeft spoke about a "Green" insert for this year's guide. HOC can submit information to be included in the supplement. She is currently gathering information from groups around the county involved in environmental initiatives.

**President's Day Dinner**

Sponsored by Jefferson County Democratic party. Sunday, February 17 - Plattdeutscher Hall in Watertown. \$20 per person. See [www.jeffdems.org](http://www.jeffdems.org) for more information.

**Next Steering Committee Meeting:** January 28, location TBD

**Next General Membership Meeting:** February 11, Café Carpe

**Adjournment:** 8:53 pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Steve Tesmer