

Heart of the City

March 12, 2007 – Police Station

Present: Beth Gehred, Bill Camplin, Kitty Welch, Leslie LaMuro, Ann Englemann, Jill Ottow, Mary Linton, Kathy Kaufmann, Lue Ehnger, Joan Callan, Josie Gobel, Ivan Davis, Patty Wall, Steve Tesmer, Steve Klein, Mark Furst, Elaine Johnson, Chris Davis, Casey Davis, Ron Langelier, John Kleinschmidt, Stella Kleinschmidt, Mat Luke, Martine Kepple

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

Approval of last month's minutes. (Leslie/Anne)

Truth to Power Moment: Bill Camplin: Read selections from Lewis Mumford

Guest Presentation: Martine Kepple spoke about the Land Trust Network of Jefferson County. To date have protected over 1000 acres of land in Jefferson County. Presented information on the Annual Spring Native Prairie, Woodland and Wetland Plant sale.

Video Screening

Desing E² program "The Green Apple": Manhattan, when looked at on a per capita basis is probalby the most efficiently utilized piece of land in the world. "Cities are the most efficient energy saving device ever invented by man." Buildings are responsible for 40% of all energy consumption. Four Times Square was one of the first New York buildings that was built designed for energy efficiency. Since then newer buildings have taken green building concepts even further. Battery Park City has mandated that all new buildings must be built green.

Discussion:

Anne E: How do local officials/architects/ etc stay in touch with new trends?

Joan C: First Unitarian Church is starting a green building project.

Ron L: Walmart in Janesville is incorporating green building technology.

Mark F: With respect to Walmart, don't confuse saving money on energy with being green. He has found it hard to convince builders to build green – they are not as concerned since they aren't going to live in the buildings.

Bill C: Talked about some of the challenges in building with green technology in their building. Initial cost was higher, but the addition retains heat better.

Kitty W: On of the problems is that builders are not familiar with newer building techniques, hesitant to be the first to try something new.

Anne E: HOC had started to put together a Developers Forum, but it has been delayed due to lack of manpower & time to put it together. If we can put it together it would be an opportunity to expose builders to new technologies.

Beth G: Talked about a program that she qualified for to make her house more efficient. Additional insulation, new lightbulbs, replaced fixtures, etc. If HOC can help get the word out to people who might qualify, it would be a great public service. Casa De Espransa (House of Hope)

Beth G: Currently has a gravel driveway, talked to Koenig about getting a new driveway, asked about permeable surfaces. He was familiar with permeable concrete materials, but said he has not had anyone ask for it. Beth put him together with Jefferson Co Economic Development Commission – they have grants available for this type of initiative.

Anne E: Can pavers be plowed, that is a question that people have asked her.

Beth G: Urged people to contact City Council members to encourage the city to adopt environmentally responsible policies.

Anne E: March 28 is deadline to apply for Master Plan steering committee.

Jill Ottow: Went to Home Lumber in Whitewater. Had read about "MDF" material made from recycled wood material, asked what kind of glue was used, formaldehyde or soy-based. They did not know, but called back the next day to say it was soy-based. This is another example of ways we can all help to raise the consciousness of local businesses.

Patty W: Commented on hospital expansion project, had asked if they might do something to help manage stormwater like rain gardens, etc. but the idea was dismissed.

Treasurer's report: No report

Committee reports:

Projects:

Joan C: Main project is the community gardens, gave some background on the project. Anyone who is interested in helping out, please see Joan. Margaret Martin wrote a proposal to the Community Foundation for a grant for equipment for the garden.

Public Policy/Govt Relations:

Lue E: Was at the high school today handing out voter registration forms. March 19 will be a candidate forum at Luther Elementary School (School board, Town of Koshkonong board).

Education & Outreach:

Leslie L: Brochure is at the printer.

Jill O: Looking for leads for publicity on Atkinson Diet and Community garden.

Website:

No report

Old Business

Beth G: Sustainable Times Distribution – looking for people to distribute them.

Ad Hoc Climate Protection Committee update: Revised resolution will be presented at the next City Council meeting (March 20)

Beth G: New study circles starting, 2 new ecomunicipalities in Wisconsin

New Business

The Atkinson Diet: Kitty W: 50 people have signed up to date. Website: www.theatkinsondiet.com is now up. Everyone is encouraged to sign up. Kitty spoke about it on the radio this morning. Will have business cards to hand out soon.

Sustainability Benchmarking: Beth G: Remind people to be mindful in your daily activities of ways to reduce your footprint.

Kitty W: Suggested forming online group to facilitate ride-sharing.

Announcements

Next Steering Committee mtg: Kessenich-Tesmer home March 26, 6:00 pm

Next General Membership mtg: April 9, 7:00, Café Carpe

Anders Yocom has volunteered to head a committee to follow up on "Big Ideas".

Kitty W: Paul Buboutsis attended a manure/energy conference, got good information about getting grants for projects.

Kitty W: Has information on oak rain barrels. Built from recycled barrels from Tyrana brewery.

Adjournment: 8:42 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Steve Tesmer