

# Heart of the City

September 10, 2007 – Café Carpe

Present: Kimberly Wenger, Jim Pick, Nancy Breitsprecher, Bob Nickel, Lynn Retzlaff, Kareny Drydyk, Josie Gobel, Anders Yocom, Walt Christensen, Lori Compas, Joan Callan, Mary Linton, Kathy Kauffman, Carl Zentner, Baul Hable, John Ottow, Jill Ottow, Andy Jorgensen, Kitty Welch, Bill Camplin, Beth Gehered, Steve Tesmer

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by President Kitty Welch.

**Approval of last month's minutes.** Kathy Kaufman/Joan Callan

**Truth to Power Moment:** Anders Yocom: Quoted from a letter in Newsweek magazine in response to a debate between an Athiest and Conservative Christian in a previous issue.

## Guest Speaker

**Raj Shukla of the Climate Project – introduced by Beth Gehred**

Climate Project was started in 2006 by Al Gore to educate citizens about the Global Warming issue. Began talk by giving an overview of the Science of Global Warming. Then cited examples of cities that are undertaking initiatives such as congestion taxes, requiring the use of efficient vehicle fleets, green building techniques, etc. Raj then asked for examples of how Fort Atkinson's efforts have been accepted or resisted. Talked about strategies for bringing about change:

- Make it Personal
- Make it Relevant
- Vote

Beth raised question of how can taxes be targeted at activities that have negative environmental impacts?

Walt Christenson talked about ozone levels and the potential to limit production of ozone locally. Chicago requires reflective roofs to reflect sunlight, as well as other environmental initiatives.

Jill Ottow talked about HOC's image as being anti-growth and anti-business, and how this affects our ability to communicate with the community. Raj raised the topic of opportunities presented by new regulations.

Kitty talked about local businesses that are starting to come around to a "Green" perspective, Fort Healthcare & VyMac, for example.

**Treasurer's report:** Current balance: \$2,314.38

Reminder to let Paul know if you make any in-kind donations to the group.

## Committee reports:

To be submitted online.

## **Old Business**

### **Big Heart award nominations:**

None.

Kitty is currently working on partnering with local businesses to purchase LED traffic lights for the city.

## **New Business**

None.

## **Announcements**

Bill and Kitty have setup an online forum at: **[fortspeaks.blogspot.com](http://fortspeaks.blogspot.com)**

October 1 is the next open session for the Master Plan. This will be an open house type format – 5:30 to 8. You can come at any time.

Andy Jorgensen distributed some information about his office and a survey.

Congratulated Jill Ottow on the Ride the Rock event this weekend.

Talked about the State budget impasse, members of budget committee are fund raising during the budget period – this may be contributing to the delay in the budget. Andy has introduced legislation to prevent this.

He also signed onto a Lawn Phosphorus regulation to protect lakes and rivers.

Urged people to call our Senator (Scott Fitzgerald) who sits on the budget committee and let him know how we feel. Also write letters to the editor.

Andy also said that Spencer Black is interested in speaking to HOC. November is a possibility.

Sustain Dane has started a community bulletin board called [neighbornation.net](http://neighbornation.net). They have added an area for Fort Atkinson.

Kitty demonstrated foldable "Green Bags" which we can put an Atkinson Diet logo on, and Sentry has agreed to sell them.

Puerto Cabezas hurricane crisis: People are encouraged to make donations for relief.

Steve Tesmer asked for volunteers for a working group to create a curriculum for next year's environmental seminars to be put on by the City as a result of the Climate Protection resolution passed by the City Council.

Kitty and Cynthia were interviewed by the Journal Sentinel about the Atkinson Diet which will be appearing in the paper soon. They will also be coming to cover Peter Mulvey's Green Tour.

Next meeting Monday, October 8 at the Police Station.

Next Steering Committee meeting October 24 at Cynthia Holt's.

Adjournment: 8:51 pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Steve Tesmer