

City of Burlington

Renewable Energy Committee

Minutes of Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2008 meeting in the City Council Chambers:

Present: Kjrsten Bobb, Jared Hamel, Mercedes Young, Nicole Fenton, Dawn Chevalier, Dan Johnson, Jerry Parks, Jon Hazell, Keith Jacobs, Dave Hay

Meeting called to order at 1:03 by Chairperson Kjrsten Bobb.

Introductions and welcome to new members Jared Hamel, Mercedes Young, Nicole Fenton, and Jon Hazell.

Presentation: Morgan Toal, City IT Director:

- 1) Morgan said he could easily add a page to the city's website for our committee. He suggested info on our mission, accomplishments, energy conservation ideas for the community, FAQ's, committee meeting schedules and minutes, and links to renewable energy sites such as I-Renew. A suggestion was made that local businesses could advertise on the site for a fee, but Morgan felt we should check that with the City Attorney. Kjrsten suggested that people with any of the mentioned items could begin forwarding them to her for inclusion on the website.
- 2) Morgan mentioned that programmable or centralized thermostats could potentially save energy at City Hall. Currently one thermostat controls wide areas that don't necessarily need the same level of heating.

Discussions:

Jon Hazell discussed his vision for the Aldo Leopold legacy. Jon felt we should identify Burlington with Leopold's ethic and develop a Leopold Center downtown which would serve to help re-vitalize the downtown area, create a major tourism draw, and incorporate the committee's vision of renewable energy.

Garry Thomas reported that the Council seemed very favorable to budgeting \$5000 a year for three years for the committee. Final vote will be March 14.

Kjrsten asked if anyone had any knowledge about a Green City program but no one seemed to know anything yet.

A continued discussion of the Leopold project found consensus that we should coordinate with the Leopold Legacy group and try to showcase renewable energy in the new building, perhaps even designing an off-grid building. A spirited discussion ensued as to whether it should be downtown or on the western edge of town. A sub-committee

was formed to work with the Legacy group: Leopold sub-committee: Garry T., Jon Hazell, Mercedes Y., Jared H., Nicole F. and probably Jerry Rigdon when he gets back.

It was pointed out that our committee should probably have a mission statement. Mission subcommittee: Kjrsten B., Keith J.

Garry mentioned he had some data regarding an application to the Iowa Power Fund to request a solar and wind farm for Burlington. No committee for this project has been established yet.

A question arose about Burlington building codes and whether they encourage or even allow wind and solar installations. Dan Johnson said Mt. Union has enacted a city ordinance favorable to renewables (he probably wrote it). A group was established to check into Burlington City Ordinances. City Ordinances subcommittee: Dawn C., Dan J.

There was a discussion of sponsoring an energy fair. Money from the City Council could be used for costs like advertising, renting a space if necessary, etc. Setting a date for the fair will be on next month's agenda. Energy Fair subcommittee: Mark E., Jerry R., Dan J., Nicole F., Mercedes Y., Jared H. It was pointed out that the Burlington summer Farmer's Markets would be a great time to do "mini-fairs" and showcase renewable energy.

Dan Johnson offered to install solar lighting for the proposed Burlington dog park. He said his costs would be less than an installation using grid electricity and he'd make the offer that if the City wasn't satisfied with it in one year he'd take it back and refund their money.

Discussion of a regular meeting date was held. It was agreed that meetings would be on the third Tuesday of the month at 1:00 in the Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Parks

Next meeting: Tues. March 18 at 1:00