



GREEN INITIATIVE CITIZEN TASK FORCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes for: Thursday, May 15, 2008

The Green Initiative Citizen Task Force Committee met on Thursday, May 15, 2008. The meeting was held at Leawood City Hall in the Main Conference Room, 4800 Town Center Drive, Leawood, KS 66211. The meeting began at 7:30 AM.

Members in attendance:

Debra Filla, Councilmember and Chair of the Committee (arriving at 8:45AM)
James Azeltine, Councilmember Liaison, Co-Chair
Lisa Cooper (arriving at 8:05AM)
Paula J. Cornwell
Camille Croteau
David Crupper
Alicia Jennings
Carolyn O'Malley

Members Absent:

Bob Pierson

Staff in attendance:

Scott Lambers, City Administrator
Joe Johnson, Director of Public Works
Julie Stasi, Administrative Services Manager, Leawood Public Works Department

Committee member James Azeltine advised the group that Chair Filla would not be here today, and that he would get the meeting started. Co-Chair Azeltine called the meeting to order at 7:40AM. James Azeltine referred a topic to Scott Lambers regarding the planning process for hazardous/recycling centers and landfills.

Scott Lambers- If the City were to establish a permanent location for a recyclables or hazardous waste site or combination of both, we would need to go through the planning process with a special use permit. If it was not on City land, then we would have to acquire it. In going through the planning process, we would have to notify all the neighbors within 500 feet of the site and notify all the homes associations. We then would have a public hearing in front of the Planning Commission and have a public hearing for the City Council. The recycling facility probably would not be difficult to site in Leawood. However, I think the opposite would probably be true for a hazardous waste facility; just by its name, description, everything else. Unless of course it was located in an area that nobody cared about and the only place I can see that might be available would be the City's business park, which is at 147th & Kenneth Road. That would cause problems because it would be so inconvenient for people to go to.

Scott Lambers-Thinks that if we were to start with something, a recycling site might be the way to go. It could be for plastic/glass- things not collected. That probably would not cause much angst. Really thinks the only way a hazardous waste program would work would be if the City got involved with the pick up. If we had a specialty vehicle and staff that were committed to collecting that; it would not be cheap and it's certainly not something this city could not afford. If we want to do a facility, especially with health and environmental concerns, we would probably be looking at a City operation as opposed to a volunteer operation. Having people drop stuff off is probably what most cities get into.

The County has a hazardous waste location near I-35 and Lamar that takes paint and household hazardous waste.

The committee wanted to explore if there was a mobile unit that came out to areas; such as Ranch Mart or somewhere close to the residents.

Camille Croteau-presented a flyer from the Mid America Regional Council (MARC) titled: 2008 HHW Collection Program (How to safely use, store and dispose of household hazardous waste).

David Crupper suggested having a truck come around on Tuesdays, for example, or select a day in June when the truck could be available.

Scott Lambers-Still thinks to have this be more successful would be to have a truck on a more regular basis. Convenience is an important part of it. A more regular schedule or something that we could do in conjunction with them would be better.

James Azeltine-mentioned recycling at City Parks. James is chair of the county parks board and apparently, the county has been looking at recycling in the parks. They are getting quotes for receptacles. This is something that Leawood does not have and thinks it would not be that much of an expense to do this as well in our parks.

James Azeltine-Gathered interesting information on the landfill. The director did not call back, however found interesting information on their web site. Current landfill has 20 years life left. As far as how we dispose of our waste.
How we dispose of our waste: Landfill 75%, Recycling 20%, Composting 5%
Waste breakdown: 40% paper, 15% yard waste, 15% plastic (40% estimate based on national average).

Alicia Jennings-Was to find out from the Homes Association who was responsible for recycling however it was not broken down. What is recyclable and what is not?

James Azeltine-Mentioned that this committee should put together an information piece and place it web site.

Scott Lambers-Advised the Parks Guide and that the program guide was not sealed so loose material inserts might not work. A City wide mailing on this maybe no more than twice a year or MARC newsletters that they send out may be possible. Also, the City's Action Line that is already in place could be utilized for recyclable info.

Carolyn O'Malley-A cover letter with something they could stick up in their garage with the info on what is recyclable and where they can take things would help. Most people do not know this information or where they can take things.

Paula Cornwell is working on the spreadsheet for the Centers of Influence and requested committee members take a look at it and email her their suggestions for the different criteria.

James Azeltine-Advised that in a survey on the landfill alternatives, most folks were willing to pay a little more to get the trash services to provide alternatives in recycling. Another MARC survey was if folks would support having a community charge based on the amount of trash set out. Almost 40% were supportive and 20% were somewhat supportive.

Scott Lambers-Said a tax on paper or plastic bags usually works in the grocery stores when they get the container and then a redemption system has to be in place. The individual State initiates the taxes in place. Many of the machines are in the grocery stores. The stores love it because people come in and place their items and the machine redeems their ticket. The people then redeem their ticket in the store for a new product.

David Crupper will do research on machines that are seen in stores (in other states) for recycling and hope to bring information on that to a future meeting. Asked what the feasibility would be to take this to the metropolitan area?

Scott Lambers –City wide it would not work, it would really have to be county wide or we would need to get the State of Kansas to get the authority. But if it went through they would place a code on every item.

Lisa Cooper asked if there was a communications officer in the City staff.

Scott Lambers-advised there was not. The City Administrators Office or the individual departments have their own info they send.

Lisa Cooper-so this (communications) could come out of our committee for now.

The Committee was thinking that they could send out information about the issue of the landfill being full in twelve years (2020). Communication could be one of the first things.

Lisa Cooper-We should probably prioritize our items. Communication and the Landfill should be number one.

James Azeltine-said we would wait for Deb Filla to be in attendance, and at the next meeting to get our different items listed of what we want to do and their priority. Paula Cornwell will organize our spreadsheet and everyone can send into to her for it.

Scott Lambers-said he would have the intern work on the how the whole system works and then we can have a report on it to consider.

Committee members that had contacted their homes associations and the trash company found that many did not know how much waste was being recycled in their neighborhoods nor did they have the breakouts of tonnage.

James Azeltine-suggested for the next meeting we will have someone at the board and we can work on our information of items and issues.

Scott Lambers-thought maybe someone from the county's office could come to Leawood to show us where the county is at in this effort.

James Azeltine-Suggested having a countdown explanation flyer to our residents. The waste/landfill issue may cost them a lot of money soon if we do not do anything about this.

The Committee mentioned school competitions, poster competitions and marketing this could work to get the word out.

Lisa Cooper-We need to work on our Mission Statement for the Green Team. In six months when we present this to the Mayor, we need to have our goals, and develop a plan. If we are going to have web based initiatives, we need to figure out how to get the people to the web site. If there are letters from Leawood, it should be mentioned on everything.

We should concentrate on our three (3) educational issues.

1. Landfill Issues
2. Recycling Stats and basics
3. Conservation (Reduce, Reuse and Conserve)

We need to take each center of influence and decide on the items:

- what are the educational components,
- what are the tactics or initiatives
- what is the feasibility of working these for the City of Leawood?

James Azeltine-When the council approved the task for this committee; one group mentioned was the City of Leawood, one group was the citizens, and possibly another would be the City staff. The City then should be added as a center of influence.

Scott Lambers-As far as looking at the city government, this group would be a communication tool, this group is not going to be advising the City itself on buying hybrid cars, etc. We have a practical approach that we have to keep in mind. We have diesel trucks and equipment that we must maintain, so this is not a part of that.

The Committee mentioned areas to look at: Schools, Retailers and Homes Associations. Staff persons in the schools, besides the PTO or PTA, each school should have a Site Council. Education of the families on the convenience issue and what containers are recyclable.

The committee asked to receive a list of schools in the City of Leawood. A new Homes Association Directory will also be resent to members, as there was a change in a few of the associations.

David Crupper Motioned to approve the minutes from May 8, 2008.

Alicia Jennings seconded the motion to approve. All members in favor, motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 AM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 22, 2008.

Minutes transcribed by Julie Stasi
Leawood Public Works Department