



GREEN INITIATIVE CITIZEN TASK FORCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes for: Thursday, June 12, 2008

The Green Initiative Citizen Task Force Committee met on Thursday, June 12, 2008. The meeting was held at Leawood City Hall in the Main Conference Room, 4800 Town Center Drive, Leawood, KS 66211. The meeting start time scheduled for 7:30 AM.

Members in attendance:

Debra Filla, Councilmember and Chair of the Committee
James Azeltine, Councilmember Liaison, Co-Chair
Lisa Cooper
Camille Croteau
Alicia Jennings
Carolyn O'Malley
Cindy Thesing

Members Absent:

Paula J. Cornwell
Bob Pierson

Guests:

Kevin Jeffries, President and CEO, Leawood Chamber of Commerce

Staff in attendance:

George Ertle, Administrative Intern
Scott Lambers, City Administrator
Julie Stasi, Administrative Services Manager, Leawood Public Works Department

- Chair Deb Filla called the meeting to order at 7:40 AM. Introductions.

Kevin Jeffries, President and CEO of Leawood chamber of Commerce was present and very interested in what the Green Committee is doing. George Ertle, Administrative Intern was present and introduced himself. George went to the University of Ohio, in Dayton-an undergrad. Is currently a Masters student in Public Administration at the University of Kansas. Has about 18 months of experience in working with the City of Dayton in the budget office.

Scott Lambers advised George's work schedule is to be to attend the meetings and then as a result of the meetings and assignments given, then he will do that project as it warrants. If there is a sub-committee that needs some work then he will be in contact with them and his work

schedule is about 5 to 6 hours per week of which 1 1/5 will be to attend this meeting. First project he would like George to do is to research the redemption issue that we have been discussing. Find out what states are participating in getting their legislation. Contacting the state legislatures research department and find out what bills have been recently introduced and how far they have gotten and also contact Johnson County delegation to find out if they are in support of this or not and then prepare a report for the Committee and have that back to us probably in August or September.

Deb Filla-A couple thoughts to that are municipalities and how they can tax plastic bags. Is that a process or how does that happen, do the City's do that? How is that enacted?

Scott Lambers-I do not know of any cities that have a plastic bag tax. Knows that San Francisco has banned them but has not heard of a tax.

Lisa Cooper-Is it the store or the individual? Whole Foods in Austin, Texas is where the decision started in terms of the plastic issue. So maybe it would be starting with a letter from Leawood to the Price Chopper, for example that could get it started. HyVee is involved with the Leawood Chamber of Commerce, so maybe we can start looking there.

- The Committee wanted to make Kevin Jeffries an honorary member of the Green Initiative Task Force Committee. Motion made by David Crupper, seconded by James Azeltine. All were in favor, motion passed.
- Draft Minutes from June 5, 2008 were reviewed. No edits were needed. Lisa Cooper made Motion to approve the minutes. All were in favor; Motion passed unanimously. Lisa also suggested that the Minutes have a "NEXT STEPS" area.
- Deb Filla mentioned our sub-committees and that members have been working in between meetings on their individual assigned tasks.
- Lisa Cooper added that they needed to spend some time on the Mission Statement. Suggestions are asked to be sent to Lisa Cooper and David Crupper. Suggestions were: "We want to transform the City of Leawood to a greener City and reduce overall trash sent to the Johnson County Landfill."

The bottom line is, what do-- we want the state of the world to be in, (that would be our vision). The Mission Statement would be the "how" and the "what" we do to contribute to that Mission. The vision would be, we have this greener state and the mission would be we want to develop City sponsored initiatives to increase recycling, energy conservation and greener mobility among Leawood Residents and Leawood Businesses. Something along those lines. We need something simple, that is short and concise. The use for a vision and mission statement should transform for example if we were to develop press releases on down the line, or a

public relations plan, it gives a road map in moving forward.

David Crupper-We need to get the word out, and does not think Leawood has ever publicized anything about recycling. It would be good to get the name out there and on the board with everyone else that we do care about it.

Vision-above a mission, where Leawood should be in the world.
Deb Filla-mentioned that the Leawood logo has been “Growing with Distinction”, and thought maybe incorporating “Greening with Distinction” would be a good vision. And then list the tasks that Lisa mentioned would work well.

Leawood- *Greening* with Distinction

Developing City supported initiatives to increase recycling, energy conservation and greener mobility among Leawood Residents and Leawood Businesses.

The Green Initiative Task Force Committee: Lead-Motivate-Collaborate

- Scott Lambers-shared an article he had found in the New York Times-International Report. The article was out of Hamburg Germany concerning garbage from Naples, Italy that is being taken to Hamburg for incineration. Naples is having a severe trash problem and they are just storing it on the streets. Germany has agreed to take 700 tons of trash of trash a week for eleven weeks. Hamburg has three incinerators, and they do not have any trash go to a landfill. They recycle what they can and then they burn the rest. The heat that is generated is used to heat the towns water system for hot water. The ash is fly ash and is used to stabilize the roads. This is a zero landfill option.

Scott said he noted that when Julie Coon was here from Johnson County, she talked a about incineration a little bit. It is an option. In the article, they say our own EPA has incineration preferable to landfill. And the landfill is the last option they want to see us do. The countries of Europe are all having the same problem; they are all running out of space. The incinerators are in the neighborhoods, they are all enclosed, they have strong filtering systems, the trucks go in, they are air conditioned, so the trash doesn't smell and they do not create air pollution. Because the bins are in the neighborhood, the trucks do not have to drive very far and make a carbon imprint; as we will have our trucks go to Douglas County and Leavenworth County in Kansas. Maybe Johnson County can look into something like this as an alternative to a landfill.

Camille Croteau-advised that her husband works for LaFarge and they

have a concrete plant in sugar creek that has an incinerator there. Part of the plastic and recycling that is not good for recycling is sent to them and they use it as fuels. They are EPA approved. We do not have an incinerator in Kansas City, but we do have options for incineration.(things like the #3-#7 plastics, glass was also tried at one point). Other plants burn tires. For them it's free fuel and it is so high temperature it is less polluting.

Lisa Cooper- there may be some other cities we could study and see what other places are doing. Friends of hers just moved to Toronto. Toronto has one day where they pick up plastic, one day they pick up glass, and you only have one trash container per household weekly.

- Deb Filla- Presented an outline and ideas for a September meeting with the homes associations. This meeting would be in hopes to have the City and Homes Associations come together to collaborate or achieve collective bargaining on a City wide basis for waste collection. Home owners participation would be optional.

Why would we want to do this? To obtain the best price, to negotiate the best options and this would be tying into the recycling ideas. Composting yard materials and in return getting free compost. We already have Town & Country ready to bring some back to us, but we do not have a plan or a place to put it and we don't know how to communicate it. That would be a freebie back to the neighborhood, to get free compost.

Increase the recycle materials (example #3 through #7 plastics) and/or glass. The City does not have any large item pick up so for some associations there would now be a plan. Most people do not have any number for hazardous wastes, so we could also include that in a scheduled basis. Maybe have a City event we could tie that into. And we can demonstrate environmental stewardship.

We have heard that in 20 years, all but one landfill is going to be full. It takes 14 years to get a permit. While we only pay \$10 to \$15 per month for trash pickup, other parts of the country are paying \$50 per month. Somebody will have something that they care about. The companies have said they are going up in cost. One committee member advised their company is going up 40% next month. And we learned it costs 1 million dollars an acre to construct a landfill. Deffenbaugh has started restricting the number of bags they are picking up. We are below the national average in recycling. Johnson County is 22%, National is 32%; EPA says 75% of all trash can recycled. It's not that hard to tackle. Of the landfill statistics we were given, 42% is paper, 13% is plastic and 11% is yard waste. So there is three items that can reduce the landfills 2/3rds.

Measure of success, we can reduce tonnage to the landfill, increase participation rate, increase recycling and influence other circles of influence (churches, schools, businesses, other cities).

We need the associations to be the leader in educating their residents. We talked about having a meeting at Ironwoods Lodge and invite two to four attendees from each homes association & apartment complexes. We need to have staff, Council, the Mayor, representatives of the waste companies. We could have Phil or Julie from Johnson County Environmental there and show them what we are learning in a very concise manner. It would be good to have displays on easels and create a traveling education show. Then maybe this could be used and taken to the library. We can then check out the template, boards, video, presentations and handouts so that they can create the information for their homes associations.

The plan is to have one large introduction meeting with questions and answers and then ask people to break into two committees (1) contracts (2) education plan for each association. Another meeting a month later with a smaller group at City Hall.

Alicia Jennings-Mentioned if we could get Julie Coon from the Environmental Office to help us with a presentation, she would be glad to help get the presentation to some of the private schools in the area.

Deb Filla-yes, if we do this traveling show right, it could then be used for school, Leawood chamber, The Lions group, Rotary, etc. This could incorporate all the ideas we've had and help with services projects. If we make it easy for them, they could do the exact same thing and spread the word to their audiences.

Scott Lambers-Collective bargaining. One experience is simply, the City could mandate that everyone has to do recycling. We'd want to look at the contract and see what they are charging them for that and see which ones are already doing it so there would be no increase in fee for it. If we have 60% that are participating, and the fee is nominal, then the City could take it on and require that any homes association that has trash service require and give them the opportunity to provide a recycling bin. If most of them are doing it, then just bring in the people that are not. We would need to see what the percentage is before we go to the council. In a town of 30,000, maybe we'll see we have 20,000 already doing it, so it may only be a nominal charge. We need to find out how the trash haulers do it. When they have a new resident, do they just get one or do they call on their own. How does the charge work?

James Azeltine-Advised he had a meeting with a gentleman who owns a

company called E-Neighbors. They basically specialize in home owners association websites. The page views that are tracked on the homes associations are pretty impressive. The association is sent an email every month and residents can click on that email and go to the site and check the activities going on. This may be a route we could use once we start to try to engage the home owners associations. It is at www.eneighbors.com.

Deb Filla-The challenge for all of us is to stay back at a higher level, we need to lead, motivate and coordinate what we cannot do. What we want to do is for our City. We want to do our web site, our press releases, so that we can lead and trust these other folks like Mr. Jeffries found us. We will find someone in the associations that are just as motivated as we are. That's why we have our spirit of influence. I'm asking that we focus in on this as a first class meeting. If we do this well, if we hit the center of influence hard, we are going to think the 80/20 rule. For 20 percent of our efforts, I think we are going to hit 80% of our objectives. For every single person in these homes associations, they have children in school, they have a church, they have businesses. Lets' make this first class. Get the invitations and get the right people. Lead by example, have a buffet with one bag of trash, etc. Survey the associations, ask them if they have service projects in their area and let them find the person for them.

The Committee agreed. We have to make it easy for them and it will motivate them.

Carolyn O'Malley- We have to motivate them and come up with a reason to make them to want to do it and get them to the meeting. A very targeted mailing could work. If we do not have the funding to do an individual one, could we possibly insert a piece of paper in the mail that is already going out? For example, in the dog license renewal notices or something that already exists. Something that they will open. If they get something from the City, they might open it.

The Committee was in support of having a fall meeting with the homes associations. The goal is to achieve a collective bargaining power in the contracts with the waste collection. Their participation can be optional in the City Wide contract. We'll give them the whys they would want to recycle and why they would want to have a plan and in the social hour, we could have a welcome from Mayor Dunn, introduce the committee, displays, a speaker.

James Azeltine-suggested that some of the members attend the Municipal Green Committees meeting that was emailed to everyone [June 19th, 7PM at the Sylvester Powell Community Center, Mission, KS].

James feels if the program is set and it is a sit-down type of event, we may

be less likely to get people to come than if we had a fair concept. Where different groups like the sierra club and this committee or whoever else have a booth. You could have a program, but maybe they could come and go.

Deb Filla-That is a good idea, the challenge right now is that I think we have is that we have a lot of good ideas and we need to do something or we'll talk ourselves all year long about all the great things and we'll be really educated and we will have made no impact. The question is, do we want to organize a fair or organize this homes association meeting, or do we have another project we want to work on?

David Crupper-With the homes association, the main purpose is to get them together and when they come, they will meet the rest of the associations so they can bargain for their contracts. That would be good for everybody. In the process we can educate them.

Deb Filla-Agreed, we need to have a project for each category and we haven't got it yet. Let's get a project out there. We can spend a lot of time creating a great chart. But to listen to all the ideas that we have had, for 20% of the doing, touches on 80% of everything we've focused on. Recycling has come up over and over and over.

Cindy Thesing made the motion to continue focus on the Homes Association Meeting and move forward with the meeting plan. Alicia Jennings seconded the meeting.

- James Azeltine-We still need to focus on our Mission Statement and the vision statement. We should dedicate our whole next meeting to that before we go with any other ideas. We may be 90% there today already. We need a compass to look back to--to keep us on track.
- David Crupper-spoke about the recycling machine and that it is run like a business. David will get with George regarding the machines. Can we use the machine technology in a non-taxed environment? Can they be used with or without a legislative mandate? David advised the machines are purchased and then serviced by the original company.
- David Crupper-spoke to the Bridging the Gap person and will hope to arrange a speaker from their company on June 19th. We want to know what Bridging the Gap has and what might be available for us. One thing we want to find out is what are the other municipalities in the area doing?

- NEXT STEPS



Deb Filla advised:

- Next Thursday, June 19th we have a meeting.
After that, Deb will be out of the country but we do not want to stop.
- Wants to break out independently and not be here all the time on Thursday morning meetings. Future meetings of June 19, June 26th, July 10th, and July 17th.
- Mission Statement
- Spreadsheet
- Review plans and assignments
- Plan speaker for June 19, 2008 from Bridging the Gap.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 AM.

Minutes transcribed by Julie Stasi.

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