

# MINUTES OF THE GREEN INITIATIVE CITIZENS TASK FORCE

## GREEN INITIATIVE CITIZENS TASK FORCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD APRIL 2, 2009

7:30 am • Leawood City Hall • 4800 Town Center Drive; Leawood, KS • Main Conference Room

### Members in Attendance:

Debra Filla, Chair; James Azeltine, Paula Cornwell, Camille Croteau, Alicia Jennings, Carolyn O'Malley, Cindy Thesing, and Bob Pierson.

### Members Absent:

David Crupper

### Staff Present:

Chris Claxton, Brian Anderson, Marica Putman, Kevin Jeffries, and George Ertle.

### Via Phone :

Jim Twigg, Environmental Projects Coordinator, City of Overland Park

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Chair Filla called the Green Initiative Citizens Task Force Committee meeting to order at 7:30 am.

### Topic: Meeting Agenda

Chair Filla added worm discussion and stream teams to the agenda.

### Topic: Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

Alicia Jennings made a motion to approve the minutes of March 5, 2009, as corrected.

Cindy Thesing seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### Topic: Essay Contest Update

Paula Cornwell stopped by and gave a timeline for the contest. Cindy Thesing read the timeline aloud.

Tuesday, April 2

- Finalize essay winners (Cindy Thesing, Paula Cornwell, and Camille Croteau).

Friday, April 10

- Winners will be notified by the teachers and will include a letter to the winners' parents with invite to the council meeting.

Monday, April 13

- Provide names and essays to the City Council.

Monday, April 20

- Winners will be provided with a pizza luncheon by the mayor and City Council. (Kevin Jeffries and Paula Cornwell will follow up with Pizza Fusion).

Wednesday, April 22

- Article about the winners for the Wednesday Community Event page, Paula Cornwell has asked for the article submission deadline. Carolyn O'Malley has submitted previous articles and is optimistic that they will publish prior to the actual event. The newspaper would like articles to be submitted a week before. Chair Filla suggested to Carolyn O'Malley to request a reporter's presence at the council meeting to take pictures of the winners and to provide coverage for the event. Chair Filla asked Chris Claxton if she could have someone take pictures and post them on the website too.

Cindy Thesing spoke about getting the notices in the church bulletins for better response from the schools and how to improve that method. It was recommended to approach the Blue Valley School Board as they set the curriculum for the students instead of going to the individual teachers. Publicity will also help schools to participate.

Chair Filla notes the hazardous waste essay in the fall and suggests for a spring project to focus on water as our conservation project, which would tie in with the rain garden project. A goal of the Stormwater Committee is to educate others about stormwater issues. The usable fresh water on Earth is only .07%. A group discussion follows.

Cindy Thesing states that she, Paula Cornwell, and Camille Croteau will finalize school winners and an over-all winner. Carolyn O'Malley likes the idea of the winners being posted on the website to share among their friends. A group discussion follows concerning Ertle the Turtle's introduction on the website and other technological avenues to present Ertle.

Chris Claxton is taking the 60<sup>th</sup> logo off the website and replacing it with Ertle and linking it to the information about the E-Waste and Shredding Event along with other upcoming events. Chris Claxton suggested that the group determine what and how the promotional item is to be used and when. Carolyn O'Malley suggested contests or games to get the kids involved in recycling by using technology. Chair Filla suggested a scavenger hunt and tie it in with the fall and spring events. A group discussion follows.

Carolyn O'Malley asked when the recycling bins will be available for use. Brian Anderson answers that the bins are out and available for use but he is waiting on logo approval for the recycling labels. The bins are next to the brown cans at every shelter and at I-Lan. The recycle containers should be placed this week. Their representative was shown the locations for the containers placement.

Chair Filla asked for Alice Hawk's contact number for the prize money for the essay from the Leawood Foundation. Cindy Thesing believes the prize money was approved and

finds in Paula Cornwell's notes that the estimated amount is \$250. Chair Filla asks Chris Claxton to verify backup budget.

Chair Filla thanks Cindy Thesing, Paula Cornwell, and Camille Croteau for the work done on the school essays. Paula Cornwell pulled the essays that did not meet the criteria. Cindy Thesing was impressed by the kids' research efforts and how they presented ideas. A group discussion follows.

**Topic: Recycling Containers Update**

Brian Anderson spoke with Blue Valley Recreation. They are aware of what we are doing. Their issue is recycling contamination. He will keep them informed and updated on what we do concerning that issue. Staff time used is critical (sorting) and a key factor of their recycling past attempts.

Cindy Thesing suggests putting recycling notices in the soccer forms for all to get a copy that says "*Please Use the Recycling Bins*". A group discussion follows on suggested ways to promote these ideas. Chair Filla suggests a letter to the coaches, parents, and kids info about the new recycling containers.

Kevin Jeffries' slogan is "Help Your Team Stay Clean".

Brian Anderson states that they still have to pour concrete and build a fence around it but that they are moving forward. A group discussion about concerning other parks' and schools recycling efforts follows.

Bob Pierson asked for label clarification and discusses the sorting problems of not having specific labels and how it's time consuming. Enforcing through education is the key. Julie Coon can help reinforce that information in the schools.

**Topic: Scary Stuff and Freaky Friday**

Camille Croteau made an appointment with Jim Twigg for early May and will call Betsy Livingston for a paint collection day. She would like to provide a kiosk at the event for people to make an appointment with the Johnson County Environmental Department Household Hazardous Material Collection Program. Perhaps dressing Ertle up as a ghost buster type character to help get rid of scary stuff in your garage and have scary stuff like dry ice in the kiosk too. Alicia Jennings suggested a location map. She has received Johnson County Environmental Department pamphlets from Julie Coon.

**Topic: Web Site Updates**

Chris Claxton will check with Mark Andrasik about updating the website (Ertle the turtle replacing the 60<sup>th</sup> logo with links).

**Topic: Ertle the Turtle Promotional items**

Chris Claxton presented some ideas for promotional items for Ertle, like a slide rule 'A Family's Guide to Going Green'. Need to determine who we want to appeal to and how to distribute items. Camille Croteau would like to distribute items at the Freaky Fall Fest. A group discussion follows.

Chair Filla asked what other avenues we might be missing in terms of offering classes from Parks and Recreation. Like, 'how do I go green?', 'how do I do carbon?', 'how do I compost?' Chris Claxton replies that green classes can be worked into a curriculum at the Nature Center. There is an opportunity for Parks and Recreation Department to be in a leadership role as an education forum.

Cindy Thesing suggested that Julie Coon could be tapped as an educator summer camps. Chris Claxton mentions the Outdoor Camp is different from the city park camps. Chair Filla mentions the Blue River Watershed is a great source for education and will come to the location. There are stream team opportunities for the kids. Brian Anderson mentions that the Outdoor Camp is always looking for things to do for the kids. Chris Claxton agrees and adds that typically they try to find things to do in the community, and/or they go on a field trip or we have somebody come and speak to the camp.

The group discusses the Freaky Fall Fest kiosk (freaky Friday). Ideas include the electric demonstration of light bulbs. The kiosk area is 10" x 10".

Marica Putman mentions the Lenexa Water Event during the summer where kids did a scavenger hunt at various booths and received educational info about recycling and environment, bringing it back for a prize. Chris Claxton thinks an event like should be a separate event, lasting a couple of hours. Perhaps an event like that for next year around earth day and enlist the help from Fire and Police too. Kevin Jeffries suggested that we do an event like this during a bigger event for broader exposure. Chair Filla suggested a scavenger hunt with Ertle the Turtle. Kids would be given a questionnaire to mark as they find the items. Ertle would be the clue and whenever you found Ertle, a hazardous item would be there. A group discussion follows about promotional prize items to be given out for the kids too.

**Topic: Rain Gardens Leawood HOA**

Chair Filla shared that Blue River Watershed received a grant to educate, plan and build a rain garden of \$300 per home association. Leawood and Leawood Estates are going to pool their money into one rain garden in old Leawood. They will help with site selection, designing the rain garden, starting with a class about rain gardens and the goal of conserving and cleaning rain water before it flows into the creek. The goal is to do this in the April/May timeframe to allow planting before it gets really hot.

We had three goals: 1) Recycling 2) Green Mobility 3) Conservation

We are making progress on #1 and #2 goals. However, we don't have a conservation project. The suggestion was made to consider making water the conservation project with the added synergy of coordinating with the council goal of stormwater education.

Chair Filla mentions that Greenburg, Kansas' premise is that 'every drop of water is precious'. In Davis, California; water runoff was done in a different way, no hard capture of water. Everyone said it would not work and they would flood. When the floods came, Davis was the only city that didn't flood whereas the others did. They used the earth to slow down the water by using natural filtering methods. There is a natural affinity there and if our conservation goal became water, there are a lot of educational resources to be had. We will not have to start from scratch. Everybody gets water and whether this is an acceptable avenue direction for our conservation. Cindy Thesing believes this is a great idea. People in Leawood have many water issues and maybe trying to solve some of those issues. Kevin Jeffries cited issues that homeowners have with landscaping companies and lawn chemicals. Brian Anderson mentions the sprinklers overwatering too.

Cindy Thesing considers the cost of the rain garden and water issues in her subdivision. She understands this is cost effective but there is reluctance among homeowners because of the economy. Alicia Jennings mentions that it is water conservation and would save money. Brian Anderson has heard that Kansas City, Missouri was pushing that program and if your rain garden incorporates ponds, etc, there is a problem with mosquitoes. Other members suggested building a bat house facing east and putting gold fish in the ponds (they eat the mosquitoes).

Chair Filla comments that if there is a consensus to do the rain garden, our next meeting could focus on that. Could Parks and Recreation and maybe Stormwater Committee kick in \$100 or \$200 for the rain garden and make this our conservation project? And can we do this in Brook Beatty Park as it is city property? \$300 will not go far but if we go into this with another homes association and receive money from others, we could have a showcase of a rain garden.

Brian Anderson and Chris Claxton mentioned that the property line may only go to the stream. Chair Filla is to double check with the property owner about property lines and installing a rain garden. Kevin Jeffries agrees that it would provide great visibility.

**Topic: Green Mobility (Walkable and Safe Routes to School)**

Alicia Jennings introduces walkable and bikeable safe routes to school. Proposing this idea to Corinth and Cure of ARS and the PTO presidents are interested in what we are doing. The ultimate goal is to make Leawood a friendlier walkable community. Chair Filla mentions that someone did a study on Portland, Oregon and that bike ridership goes up when the infrastructure is friendly. There is an upcoming work session on June 1<sup>st</sup> to ask questions like, 'what does it take to be bike friendly'? This allows the council more

education on the topic. Brian Anderson mentions that staff needs to be informed by council to what direction they would want us to go. Alicia Jennings speaks about googling bicycle paths in Oregon; there is a community in Germany (transportation is on bicycle – 43%) in a rainy type climate. Cindy Thesing speaks of Del Ray Beach, Florida widen their roads for bike paths and is very popular.

Chair Filla talks about the virtual bus. Alicia Jennings describes the virtual school bus. Kids meet with a mom or dad (takes the backpacks and puts them into a stroller or wagon) and they all walk together to school. The organization starts August 13 and goes through November and re-starts after spring break. We also need four-way stops. Everyone should stop to allow for safety. A group discussion follows concerning how to connect the city and slow traffic down with the shared roads concept as a possible future work session.

**Topic: E-Waste and Shredding Event**

Jim Twigg enters the meeting by phone.

Chair Filla asked for an update on volunteers. We have 25 volunteers. Jim Twigg answers that he has 10 volunteers working under the tent, 4 collecting money and 2 for other positions. A total of 16 volunteers and expecting more volunteers from Wal-Mart. He has spoken with an ROTC group but no figures were given.

Chair Filla wants George Ertle and Jim Twigg schedule a meeting with Marica, so we could have the last of the details that we could call in for. Jim Twigg answers in the affirmative.

Carolyn O'Malley tells Jim Twigg she has sent a community note article to the KC Star and called the editor of that section. However, it was not published and was wondering if he was planning to do that would carry more weight. Jim Twigg answers that he will talk with Bob from Surplus Exchange because he is good with getting those folks to act quickly. Carolyn O'Malley mentions that it may be that KC Star may just be waiting closer to the event date to publish the article. Jim Twigg answers that he believes someone did call him in response to her article.

It was decided that KC Star was probably waiting closing to event date and Carolyn O'Malley will send Jim Twigg a copy of her article. Chair Filla requests that Chris Claxton bumps up the event on the web site so people see it. Jim Twigg mentions that he has a couple of TV contacts to help announce the event before the scheduled date. Chair Filla will contact Loren Halifax from Fox 4.

Chair Filla asks Jim Twigg about the hazardous waste event that we did but nobody remembers. Jim Twigg said they had collected all chemicals. He mentioned a latex paint collection is good. A full collection means you have to count everything else and is a huge deal, a lot of work, and expensive. Chair Filla replies that we focus on paint we

obtained and make appointments for everything else. She questions about car batteries. Jim Twigg replies that you can collect other misc non-regulated things like latex paint, compact fluorescent light bulbs, rechargeable batteries, ripple glass containers – very popular.

Chair Filla will conference Jim Twigg or he can attend the May meeting and talk about hazardous waste in more detail. We will also contact Betsy Livingston too and Julie Coon. Let our agenda be focused on the rain garden and the work session for June 1<sup>st</sup>. We can contact Jim Twigg in a week or two for an update on the E-Waste and Shredding Event.

Next meeting is May 7, 7:30 am.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 am.

Minutes transcribed by Marica Putman, Administrative Graphics Technician, Parks & Recreation  
GITCF 4-2-09