



## Meeting Minutes

**SUBJECT:** Ecology and Environmental Awareness Committee

**DATE:** September 24, 2009

**LOCATION:** City Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Main Conference Room

**FROM:** Michael W. Pratt, P.E., Director of Public Works

**ATTENDEES:** Diane Meyer (Chair), Richard Marx, Pamela Fournier, Stan Braude, Alex Bornstein, Peter John Le Blanc Jr, Mike Pratt (Staff Liaison), Daneen Schlereth (Recording Secretary)

**ABSENT:** Catherine Werner, Punit Jain, Jeffrey Flotken, Andrea Maddox-Dallas (Aldermanic Representative),

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**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** at 5:00 p.m.

Diane welcomed David Hermaley, Luke Sloan and Hap Burke from Boy Scout Troop 21 along with their parents; they sat in on the meeting to earn a merit badge.

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:** The meeting minutes of the September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved.

**ART FAIR RECAP:** Diane recommended that if the committee decides to have the Green Certificate Program again next year, that the participants have to be present for the entire Art Fair; the grand prize winner was only there on Friday, after that the booth was abandoned. The committee agreed that anyone can participate, but must be present for the entire event to be eligible for the grand prize.

Mike said he found out after the fact that the Art Fair Committee meets with the vendors once before the event. He suggested if the committee does this again next year, we should definitely attend that meeting. We can hand out the questionnaire at that point and we can make sure they plan on attending the entire event.

Stan suggested we try to submit the list of winners to the City Views to show recognition for their accomplishments. It may bring more participation next year if restaurants realize their names will be published in the City Views and get free publicity. Mike said we could try and draft something up.

Mike asked if anyone has seen the new issue of the City Views yet, as they added a few more pages and are now able to accept more articles.

Mike asked if Daneen if she had a list of winners. Daneen advised she did not get any of the information. Pamela said the winner was Russo's Catering and the other 3 participants were Café Manhattan, Molly Darcy, and Hank's Cheesecakes. Mike said we can draft something up and submit it for the next City Views. No guarantees it will make the cut, but we can try.

Mike asked if anyone noticed that there is a news article or environmental tip in every issue.

Pamela suggested we do the planning for next year at the May meeting, since most of us are not in town in July and then we get backed up in August. If we move our personal time line up and have our plan in place in May, we won't be so pressed for time. Richard said we need to make sure we find out when the Art Fair Committee has their meeting with the vendor so we can be prepared before that. Pamela asked Mike if he knew when they start planning for the Art Fair. Diane said she believes they plan all year. Mike said that was correct, but it really picks up in the last few months prior to the event. Gary Scheipeter is one of the key participants in the planning and Mike said now that he knows about the meeting he will make sure we found out from Gary when it's going to take place.

Diane asked who takes care of the recycling containers and the dumpsters for the event. Daneen advised the committee that Allied Waste provides the containers; it's in the contract that they provide all of the waste containers for all of the events in Clayton; however Gary Scheipeter works directly with Tony Lamantia to set up the delivery and the pick up. Mike asked if anyone thought we needed more containers. Diane said no, she was just wondering how we did with the recycling containers. Daneen told Diane we were still waiting for the numbers from Allied.

Diane said she thought it would be interesting to know. She said in the past years she noticed people weren't paying attention to the containers and they were just throwing trash in anything. She did say last year it appeared to be better, and this year she noticed the containers were more predominate. Diane said she noticed there was also a blue dumpster in the alley marked recycling only, which you usually never see at other municipal festivals like this, so it was great to see that we made it easy for people to recycle.

Pamela asked who is responsible for taking it from the vendor site to the dumpster. Mike said the restaurants are responsible for their own. As far as the cans, Allied Waste haulers take the cans and empty those. Pamela asked if we had any problems with overflow of cans, Mike and Diane both said they didn't notice anything. Diane said the cans were very noticeable and the opening to the recycling containers were a lot smaller so people can't stuff paper plates or other things that don't belong in there very easily. It was rather impressive, the past weekend there was an Italian Fest, and German Fest in other cities, and you just don't see what we provide any where else. It was also impressive on how many sinks they had next to the Port-a-Potties.

Pamela wanted to publicly thank Stan for all the hard work he did in getting the certificates and the questionnaires done. Everyone agreed.

Richard asked if we can use this to lead into working with the restaurants in the City to recycle. Stan asked if he could bring this up in New Business.

**BUDGET ITEMS:** Diane asked if anyone had any budget ideas, the budget was approved the other night. Mike said we have \$2000 in the budget.

Pamela asked if the committee still needed to buy a plaque for the Art Fair winner, since the winner wasn't even there till the end. Stan said it was stated in the letter that the winner would receive a plaque, so I think we need to get one, whether or not the winner was there the whole time or not. Stan said he will take care of it, and submit the receipt to the committee.

Stan told the committee he had two potential budget ideas. He said he contacted a company by the name of Battery Solutions, who provides collection drums and kits to recycle alkaline batteries. The price of the drum includes the shipping price to send it back to them when it's full. Stan thought we could get a few of these and have one here at City Hall, advertise in the City Views and see how fast it fills up. Someone suggested we put one at The Center, since there is more traffic over there, or even at Shaw Park. Mike said he would have to get permission to set it out in the lobby.

Daneen advised the committee that there is already a recycling box in the lobby that collects old cell phones, chargers and laptop batteries.

Mike said he is fine with the idea if we want to do this, however the trend the City is trying to go to, is if we already have an established site, we don't want to produce another one. From time to time the City gets phone calls and questions about where to recycle something; we do the research and then list the location on our website. Diane asked if we already had a battery recycling location. Mike said he wasn't sure. Peter said the closest place he found was University City.

The committee agreed it was a great idea. Mike said he would check with the Director of Parks about placing one at The Center. Richard suggested maybe placing one at the high school.

Stan advised the committee he has been personally buying trees from the Dept. of Conservation in the spring, and then has his class or the Boy Scouts help him individually bag them and help find homes for them. The Dept. of Conservation sells bundles of trees; they usually run about \$8 for 25 trees. The order sheet comes out in the fall and the trees are delivered in the spring. Stan thought it might be a good idea to place an order for the committee and maybe offer them to the residents, or discuss what else we could do with them.

Pamela said we should be using Missouri Natives in the rain garden, do we know who is planning the rain garden? Mike said a consultant is doing the design, but the City is reviewing them. Pamela asked if the committee has any say in the plantings. She would like to suggest we use Missouri Natives from the sources Stan is talking about. Mike advised the committee that the City has 3 foresters on staff; one is a Municipal Specialist, in which there are only 15 of them in the state of Missouri. The foresters are helping to review the plans. Mike asked the committee if they were aware that the City had planted over 200 trees this year.

Alex said small trees grow very fast; they just need to be planted in an area where they will be well taken care of. Stan asked if there was any event in the spring we can use these trees for. Diane said there is a vacant lot on Wydown just west of the school, maybe the residents might want some there. It was also suggested we have a booth at the Earth Day Festival. Pamela suggested we get in touch with Janet Eiserle for next year. The committee agreed that would be a great idea. Stan suggested we take the list to the lead forester with the City and get his advice on the trees.

Diane said she would also like to find some way to utilize our money to work in partnership with some of the goals the City might have. It's not a lot of money, but there must be something we can help with.

**DOMESTIC FOWL UPDATE:** Mike said they have not passed an ordinance on chickens yet but it is up for discussion on the next Board of Alderman agenda scheduled on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Pamela asked why the topic was being discussed, was it because someone was upset with this. Mike said someone had complained about chickens in Clayton. Diane said they are trying to discourage the idea.

**GREEN SEMINAR UPDATE:** Peter said he attended for a short period of time and the presentation he did get to listen to was very informative.

Mike provided the committee with a handout of some of the things the Public Works Department has presented to the Alderman on what the City has done to become greener. Mike discussed the number of vehicles in the fleet that are hybrid, and that we are adding more in 2010. Mike said he doesn't believe anyone else in the area can compare to us. The City already has 19 rain gardens scheduled to go in and they will be of native species. Diane asked Mike to give a brief description for the boy scouts and their parents on how the rain gardens work.

Mike stated the City has made recycling mandatory in all our contracts, such as in concrete work, the contractor has to remove and recycle the old concrete. Energy audits are being done in all of the City buildings. In the bathrooms we are in the process of installing 100% green paper and hand cleaning products. We will continue to require 15% crumb in our crack seal products, which is a recycled rubber. We recycle 100% of the leaves and the wood chips we pick up and then make it available for the city residents in the bins in Shaw Park.

Alex asked if the city has moved forward in trying to buy more recyclable goods. Mike said the Public Works Department doesn't have anything to do with buying the paper products for the City; however he knows the Deputy City Manager has been looking into buying with other cities. He knows part of the requirement Mike thought but wasn't positive that it has to be 30% recycled. Mike did suggest that Pedro's Planet be considered when they go out for bid.

Mike advised the members that he also serves on the City's Green-It Committee which meets once a month and any ideas that come out of this meeting get passed on to that committee, and vice versa.

**NEW BUSINESS:** School issue update – Pamela heard the Clayton schools had gone to a single stream recycling program, which is great to hear.

Alex advised the committee he went to the Wydown Tomorrow meeting, and there is a sub group trying to make the new buildings as green as possible. The staff is very much in favor of the idea; they want it to be model green centers. Alex suggested at the meeting that they contact the city since they do have a green committee. They apparently knew nothing about us.

Alex told Mike he was very happy with the new bike lanes on Wydown, he thought they looked great.

Pam said for the next meeting she would like to discuss composting.

Stan said he had a friend who was a former Washington University student who did an internship in California; her job was education and establishment of the Green Business Certification Program. He was hoping she could come to a meeting and discuss with us on how the whole certification program works. The committee thought it would be a great idea.

Alex stated he wants to discuss at the next meeting if there is a way for our committee to interface with the Wydown Tomorrow committee.

**NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 at 5:00pm at Clayton City Hall.

**MEETING AJOURNED:** at 6:00 p.m.

cc: Lenore Toser-Aldaz, Deputy City Manager  
Mike Pratt, Director of Public Works  
June Waters, City Clerk  
Judy Kekich, Economic Outreach Coordinator