

SUMMARY REPORT
Sustainability Commission Meeting
February 15, 2011

Meeting called to order at 5:35 pm by acting Chairman Daniel Schweitzer.

Roll Call: Caroline Arnold, Daniel Schweitzer, Theodore Newman, Alyssum Kellogg, Tami Roberts

Staff: Gary Locke, Community Development Director

Review of Meeting Summary Report of November 16, 2010: Caroline made a motion to approve the summary report from November. The motion was seconded by Dan and was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Public Comment:

Alex Piteo and Marty Mundy from the Kent State University Sustainability Committee spoke about some of the efforts to promote sustainable practices on campus. Alex is a local businessman and Marty works in the KSU Architect's office. Their Committee is looking to explore several possibilities in working with the City's Sustainability Commission. One idea involved working with mainly off-campus student residents with helping them to reduce their carbon footprint by installing energy saving devices in their homes. This idea has been tried at the KSU Stark Campus. It is possible that the effort could also be expanded into the community. Ideally students would be involved in this but the effort would need some funding assistance. Members of the Commission noted that they did not have any type of budget to work with. Caroline noted that perhaps KEC could help with some funding, possibly up to \$1,000. Dan offered several ideas and mentioned that possibly the City could help identify student rentals and possibly help track the effectiveness of the program through monitoring water billing and utilization at assisted properties. A concern was raised that perhaps the program should be made available to all residents and Gary emphasized that should the City become involved in the project, it would be difficult and not necessarily desirable to limit the program just to students, since there are non-student residents who could benefit just as much. Theo questioned whether the assistance should be provided for free or whether there should be some nominal charge. Alyssum questioned whether there would be an incentive on the students part to use the devices since often the landlords paid the water bill at the house.

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Marty and Alex indicated that they will also be talking to some other groups about this idea. Gary suggested that perhaps several people from the Sustainability Commission could work with Alex and Marty and both groups agreed to stay in touch.

The second idea, which has been discussed with representatives of Main Street Kent, was to hold some public education programs which would involve bringing some speakers in. Caroline asked if Alex and Marty were familiar with some of the existing efforts to educate people about sustainability, such as the "Who's Your Mama" event as well as the efforts of KEC.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Given time constraints due to the length of the public comment part of the meeting, Gary gave a quick talk on some of the items in his outline regarding housing policy and potential issues related to sustainability. He suggested that members give some additional thought to these questions and that the discussion be continued at the next meeting. This was agreeable to the Commission members.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

NEXT MEETING:

March 15, 2011 at 5:30 pm.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned by consensus at 6:45 pm.