

MINUTES
CLIMATE PROTECTION TASK FORCE
NAPA VALLEY COLLEGE
CONFERENCE ROOM
POPE STREET AND COLLEGE AVE. – ST. HELENA
March 3, 2010
5:00 pm

PRESENT: Del Britton, Sandra Ericson, Tom Faherty, Susan McWilliams, Ralph Myers, Christy Abreu, Carol Troy, Steve Patterson, John Draper, Doug Cutting, Loraine Stuart, Allen Price, Katie Schnable

ABSENT: William Silfvast, Sharon Crull --

Welcome to our newest member Katie Schnable from Baksheesh on Main St.

PUBLIC FORUM: none

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes for February 3, 2010. Moved by Del Britton and seconded by Ralph Myers

SCHEDULED ITEMS

Presentation from Lou Penning, Napa County Bicycle Coalition, Re: Bicycle Lanes, Infrastructure, and Upcoming Napa County “Bike to Work” Event on May 14th. Mr. Penning spoke about the Safe Routes to Schools programs that are available to communities and Ralph Myers volunteered to contact the school district for their plans in this area. Mr. Penning also recommended to the CPTF that St. Helena engage a professional bicycle planner on a contract basis to develop a well integrated Bike Plan for St. Helena that will be integrated into the General Plan and be viable for the life of the GP. This is a requirement if St. Helena wants to qualify for the funding available; Yountville qualified for \$100,000 of funding. We should be aware of the next funding cycle.

Discussion, Review, and Direction Re: Light Pollution. Jerry Hyde, a local physicist, reported on St. Helena’s problems with light pollution at night, giving several examples of lights that were overly glaring, not hooded to direct the light downward and too numerous for code. He quoted specific studies that have shown that vandalism actually decreases when lights are either off entirely or more evenly lit over an area. Great contrasts between pools of light and dark backgrounds makes it easy for vandals to work. Additionally, he reported on his 3-year project with the elementary school to redesign their lighting plan which saved the district an impressive amount of their energy cost; it is possible to save 80% with a re-design. Sandy Ericson moved and Del Britton seconded a motion

to recommend that the City review its night time lighting policies, adhere to code without exceeding it needlessly and enforce lighting plans as approved .

Discussion, Review, and Direction Re: Proposed Projects for Complete Streets and Solar/Green Buildings. The Sub-committee discussed directions for 2010 in the Complete Streets agenda with particular attention to aspects other than biking, such as the condition of the sidewalks and the ability for other vehicles to use the streets, small electrics, for instance. Sidewalks are a particular problem in St. Helena. Del Britton volunteered to check on the sidewalk plans and current policy.

Update on Proposed Ordinances Eliminating the Use of Styrofoam Bags and Prohibiting Idling of Vehicles. Sandy Ericson presented the results of the community surveys on 2 new possible ordinances. For the ordinance concerning the reduction of idling vehicles, there were only 3 responses and none opposed; those responding were enthusiastic about restricting idling. For the ordinance regarding the reduction of the sale and use of single use plastic containers, there were 26 responses with a majority supportive but several concerned about the cost of the alternatives to local businesses and also about the alternatives available for shipping wine in something other than styrofoam in the summer due to temperature control issues. The committee will research both these issues and see what the options are. In general, there was strong support for alternatives if these issues can be solved. Many volunteered solutions that they were using and most chose a 6-months to 1-year phase-in time.

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Solar Energy Update (Bill Silfvast): Update on Solar Program. Susan McWilliams read Bill Silfvast's report on the solar program which indicated that there was considerable potential for forming a group buy program locally for the solar panels and for scheduling local contractors in an installation program for those participating. Steve Patterson will go back to his Solar/Green Building sub-committee to discuss forming a local group. Also the committee is waiting to see if a group buy program will be established through the County in which the cost rides on the property in the form of a property tax assessment instead of individual financing, as Sonoma County has done. This should be known in the near future.

Bike Racks and Recycle Container Update (Loraine Stuart): Loraine reported that the containers and racks have arrived and that she is in touch with John Ferons (Public works) about the installation schedule -- much celebrating all around! Katy Schnable will poll Main Street merchants re. desire for racks at their stores. Installation must wait for completion of Carnegie Building and elevator installation.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion of Climate Element and related sections of the General Plan
Report on the Safe Route To School bike program inquiry: Ralph Myers

Report on light pollution policy status: Del Britton

Update on Complete Streets/Sidewalk conditions: Dell Britton

Update on Solar/Green Building possibilities: Steve Patterson & Bill Silvfast

Update on bike racks and cans on Main St.: Loraine Stuart & Katie Schnable

Update the proposed ordinances and the process.

Discussion of noise pollution language to the General Plan

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular Climate Protection Task Force Meeting will be held on March 3, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting Adjourned at 6:08 PM

SUBMITTED BY: Sandra Ericson, Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Carol Troy, Chair