



City of Medford
Medford Energy &
Environment Committee
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Medford Energy Committee Agenda
January 9, 2017, 6PM City
Hall Room 201

Attendance: Curtis Tuden, Erica, Laretta James, Bob Paine, Cathy Young, Sergi Valme, Barry Ingber, Alicia Hunt, Luke McKneally, Kathleen McKenna, John Rogers
Add visitors from sign-in list

1. Administration

- Approve minutes from December 3, 2016 - approved
- Administrative updates -
 - Name change to Medford Energy & Environment Committee – Alicia remember to change website
 - Should we change mission? Yes – next meeting on agenda

2. Discussion of new Sustainability Committee - Go Green Medford Coalition

Curtis Tuden met with Mayor Burke in the last few days to discuss the Energy & Environment Committee and the new Go Green Medford Coalition. They discussed priorities that she'd like to see worked on this year. However, she also indicated that she is open to receiving suggestions for projects and programs the city should undertake or support and legislation we should support at the local, state and national level. She suggested that official requests from the committee(s) come through Alicia Hunt, Director of Energy & Environment, because she will send them to Alicia for recommendation, and this would speed up the process.

Priorities from Mayor Burke – legislative, building, projects & programs

Legislative project - Municipal Aggregation – needs to be approved by the City Council, they've already voted against once, will need broad and vocal resident support. Would be an action in support of the net-zero carbon agreement Mayor Burke signed in November.

Building – Sustainable development of the new police station

Events – Harvest Your Energy Festival – additional municipal support to expand this event, possibly in conjunction with City Hall 80th anniversary

Communication – organizing sustainability oriented communication – how to effectively reach other sustainably oriented people; reach residents in Medford

Discussion with the group:

- Suggestion to focus on carbon neutrality, lowering our carbon footprint. Would like to have this as a goal for the group. The City should lead on the carbon neutral issue by putting language around it that is official and specifically call out carbon as something that must be addressed.
- The Mayor signed a commitment to be part of a regional agreement to be carbon neutral by 2050, but does not yet have a roadmap, the Committee can help figure out how we can get to carbon neutrality.
- Rowena proposed DPW recycling goal – City get Waste Management to collect categories of Styrofoam that isn't collected. Jon pointed out that you have to pay for it to be taken away because recycling isn't cost effective. [Clarification: you can put all plastic containers in Medford recycling, no need to check numbers. No Styrofoam.] Better to ban Styrofoam and plastic bags.

- MHS Environmental Club is circulating petition to ban plastic bags. This coalition could also work on this issue. The students will be looking for resident support in the next few months.
- Quarterly meeting to talk about how we can help each other further each other goals.
- Should be email list - how?
- Cathy – need to clarify the role of the Go Green Medford Coalition and then invite people to join it.
- Luke – E&E committee will communicate the results of this meeting to everyone who was here, meet again in 3 months.
- Request to lay out roles of committee vs coalition. E.g., committee has official role, responsibilities & authority, coalition is an advocacy group with no authority or responsibility but can do advocacy.
- Fred points out that if email is city funded then you have to be careful about advocacy.
- Streetlights in NJ have individual solar panels on each one that is a solar collector, couldn't it save a lot in the long run? Jon knew that they are net-metered and not locally tied with batteries. They were cost effective because of the incentives in place in NJ at the time, but they are not a good financial incentive. What about general solar? Alicia updated everyone that we are waiting on a company to give us a proposal for solar on municipal buildings, however the market is not stable in MA right now because of pending legislation and regulations, so it's taking a long time to get a price.

Alicia's office could also work as a sorting hat to help connect residents who want to get involved to get connected with groups that fit their interests.

Email lists – announcements only for sharing between groups officially & discussion list for those interested.

By defining what we need to do to get to Carbon neutral, then goals will fall into place and people will find the areas they are interested in. Need goals showing what needs to be done, then people understand why and they will do it. There is a green Medford google group – should we use that and expand that? There are currently 59 people on the greenmedford@groups.google.com email list, it is used currently for sharing green information, but is not a formal organization.

Alicia – set up a doodle poll for a meeting and send it to everyone who left their email

3. Subcommittee Updates - normally we see which subcommittees we want to keep and which should change now, but shall we put off until next month?

Education - (Tuden) - approval to do recycling, Curtis sent text for signs to print shop and Erica got bins; they will make announcements at the HS and they recycle cell phones, rechargeable batteries. The students will work more on the ban the plastic bag campaign, then take to a School Committee meeting to say that there's a lot of students interested, then will go to City Council. Banning plastic bags came up at City Council, so Laretta emailed someone to let them know that Curtis is working on it with the students. Curtis is trying to get the students to reach out to businesses about this topic as well.

Curt Newton is trained in presenting a global climate simulation that you would do for 3 hours with a group, he is interested in running this at Medford High School, he could also do it for community groups, 20 people is a good number to do it. It's a group out of MIT that does it, so there's no cost to running.

Green Awards - (Paine) - Should we continue with this? We have a form, do we still want to give these out at the HYE? Are there ideas for how to change it or open it up? With the new coalition, would this possibly help us get more nominations.

Harvest Your Energy - (A. Hunt) - Last time discussed merging with Medford Day or not and committee thought not. Medford Day will be June 4th. We should have a solid presence at Medford Day for climate & sustainability. He proposed to the Mayor having the formal event for the City Hall anniversary and then have a walk from here to the wind turbine where the HYEAF would occur. Could we just have the Energy Festival here at City Hall? Then we'd lose the wind turbine. Benefit of merge - opportunity for more city support on planning and opportunity to get more participants. Con - if we change it too much so that it's not recognizable than why do that.

Let's discuss this further at the next meeting.

Alternative Energy Park - (Young) - Based on the Conservation Restriction, a building would not be allowed at Riverbend Park and the Mayor is not prepared to use political capital with DCR to get permission to do this. We have other more critical items we want to work on with DCR. Some members wanted to figure out how to do it anyhow, but Luke puts out that we have other building projects that are more important for the energy of this committee.

Mayor found \$30,000 that had been set aside for a "solar house"; Curtis contacted the budget office to find out if there's any restrictions on it and she's going to get back to us on that. Alicia will share the conservation restriction with everyone.

Outreach/Marketing (J. Hunt) - didn't meet over holidays so nothing to report

4. General Outreach & Communication 7:35-7:45
 - Upcoming events for MEC participation
 - Medford Conversations Project
 - Earth Day - no one else in the city will organize something if the Energy Committee doesn't want to, maybe other organizations would do something we'd piggy back on?

5. New Business
 - Vote for new Committee Chair Curtis elected as new chair unanimously

6. Adjourn 8:00

For accommodations please call in advance: 781-393-2137 or TTY: 781-393-2516

MEC mission: To promote policies and actions that improve energy efficiency, encourage conservation, and increase the use of renewable energy to meet our present needs while considering future generations of the Medford community.