



HAMILTON COUNTY 2030 PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK
CAMPAIGN TO BALANCE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT
PART 1: COUNTYWIDE GREENSPACE INITIATIVE

HAMILTON COUNTY
LOCAL ALLIANCE FOR NATURE AND DEVELOPMENT (LAND)

Committee on Green Building

Meeting Summary

September 19, 2006, 1:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.
Room 807, County Administration Building

Attendance at the Meeting:

- Phil Friedman, HCDBI
- Joanne Gerson, City of Montgomery Planning Commission
- Alan Weiner, C.O.R.R.E.
- David Quilligan, TREMCO
- Chad Edwards, KZF Design
- Holly Christmann, Hamilton County Solid Waste District, USGBC
- Sue Gillespie, Gillespie Gardens
- David Whittaker, Human Nature
- Chris Manning, Human Nature
- Dean E. Niemeyer, HCRPC

Joanne opened the meeting and asked that everybody attending to introduce themselves since we have two new members attending for the first time. Sue Gillespie stated she had talked with Ron Miller at the Lecture/Slide show by Astrid Haryati at the Civic Garden Center on The New Urban Greening: Chicago's Story. She stated she was a landscape designer and had recently worked on a roof top garden for Shriners Hospital.

David Quilligan stated he had also talked with Ron Miller at the Civic Garden Center Lecture. David informed the Committee that he worked for Tremco Incorporated, a roofing supply company, and he has a great interest in green roofs. Dean informed the Committee that both Erich Russo and Jennie Russell had called and said they were unable to attend the meeting. Dean stated he had a discussion about new Wal-Mart stores with Erich that he will explain later in the meeting.

Joanne asked for comments on the draft Meeting Summary of the August 2006. Holly stated that there was a couple of question marks behind Alex Watson on page 2, she stated the correct name should be Alex Wilson. Chad asked whether these summaries "go up the food chain" and will they be available on the WEB page? Joanne stated that we could and should put the Meeting Summaries on our WEB page. She pointed out that other Planning Partnership committees have posted their meeting minutes. Chad pointed out that the work is already done. The committee agreed that it would be a good idea. Joanne asked for a move to approve the August Meeting Summary with corrections. Alan Weiner so moved, and Dean seconded and the Committee approved the August Meeting Summary.

Dean began his review and update on old business. He stated that he was informed by a few sources that the Banks Working Group had received our letter in support of Greening the Banks. The Banks Working Group will inform prospective developers that going green is a priority. Dean stated that the chosen developer group AIG/Carter is decidedly green oriented and he referred to the links supporting that he had sent to the Committee prior to the committee. Considering AIG/Carter's Green

orientation, Dean recommended that the Committee not take any other action at the present time.

Chris Manning suggested that, instead, this might be a good opportunity to make specific recommendations on greening practices that should be utilized in developing The Banks such as green roofs, photovoltaic cells, and geo-thermal systems. Dean stated the Phil had made similar recommendations during our visioning process for Greening Banks. Phil offered that we should also include bring fresh water canal into the development which could offer recreational benefits and energy efficiency benefits with cooling affects. The general consensus with the Committee that letter directly addressed to the AIG/Carter addressing these ideas should be developed.

Dean next discussed the greening of the HIP Program. He stated he had met with Pat Hanrahan, Director of the HIP program, to discuss how the HIP program could emphasize green/energy efficiency building renovations. Dean stated that the HIP program was recently expanded to include commercial buildings and the property value changed from \$300,000 to \$350,000. Dean distributed the existing HIP Brochure and also an additional new panel (for the six sided brochure) that recommended using HIP to “green your home for energy efficiency” and listed specifics on products and energy efficiency ratings systems, and also, WEB sites for home energy audits. He mentioned that the brochure could also be distributed at Home Depot, etc. The committee was very supportive of the project.

Dean stated that he Phil Friedman, Ron Miller, Todd Kinskey, Building Commissioner Tonia Edwards, County Facilities Director Ralph Linne met with Jeff Aluotto to discuss possible green programs for the County. He stated that Linne had been researching energy efficiency programs for a few years including more recently LEED-Existing Building (LEED-EB). Dean stated that the green zoning programs discussed dealt primarily with the green BMPs (ie. green roofs, bioswales, bioretention) that would be implemented with the Hamilton County Storm Water District (HCSWD).

Dean discussed his conversation with Eric Russo prior to the meeting. Eric informed Dean that he had been to a planning meeting the previous evening at Springfield Township which included review/discussion of the new Super Wal-Mart. Eric had talked with the developer’s rep for Wal-Mart and she told Eric that the Springfield Township and also the Fairfax Super-Walmarts were not being designed with green BMPs, including green roofs and pervious parking surfaces. Dean stated that maybe its time to write Wal-mart CEO Scott a letter. Dean also said it maybe that the green BMPs are only now coming online with the new Hamilton County Storm Water District New Rules and Regulations.

Dean next introduced Chris Manning from Human Nature to discuss a proposed project that the Committee might contribute support. Chris stated that his company, Human Nature, has been working on the Uptown Park and Urban Revitalization Plan, a collaborative effort between the Cincinnati Park Board and the Uptown Collaborative. Chris stated that they want to include in their recommendations the development of a Center for Sustainable Cities, to be located at the corner of Martin Luther King and Bishop Streets.

Chris stated that Human Nature is the strongest supporter for this idea, but they want to make sure the community would endorse this idea. David Whittaker discussed the proposed site. He said that an environmental study showed that Burnet Woods has significant environmental quality for forest cover. It would be an excellent site to interpret urban ecology. With the conjunction of Burnett Woods, the EPA and the

University of Cincinnati at the proposed site, there's a chance to bring these diverse entities together in joint effort.

Chris stated that Human Nature hopes that the Sustainability Center makes it into the final draft of the Uptown Plan. We, therefore, need obvious support from various stakeholders. Another dimension for the Sustainability Center would be educational as a Human Environmental Laboratory. The Cincinnati Park Board wants to develop partnerships that look to Parks to be laboratories for environmental education, but not just for children, but also for life long learning. Chris stated the site would be ideal for educational purposes for natural/green storm water management techniques. We also see the Center would be a new gateway to Burnet Woods. We foresee that the Trailside Building in Burnett Woods could serve as stepping stone for the Center and house the Center until the new center would be built on the proposed site.

Joanne questioned the size of Burnet Woods. Chris answered that there are 89 acres in Burnet Woods. Joanne questioned whether the environmental groups such as the Green Umbrella would be housed at the Center? Chris said it could be. He said that we envision the Center as a place where small organizations could start out. David Quilligan suggested it could be like the business incubator of HCDC.

Chris stated that the University of Cincinnati would be a key player, but that the timing couldn't be worse with its present financial problems. He said they had been in contact with Mary Stegeman at U.C., who is the portal for community access and resources from the alumni.

Holly informed the group that the U.S. Green Building Council had also discussed the possibility of developing a Center for Sustainability a couple of years ago. Chris asked how can engage USGBC in helping Human Nature with their proposal. David Quilligan questioned whether Chris had approached US EPA about this proposal. Chris stated we're saving the best for last and we want to go to the EPA from a position of strength. Sue Gillespie asked Chris if he saw difficulty in dealing with the EPA. Chris stated that the EPA had recently fortified itself because of Homeland Security. Chris state that the EPA parking lot could be ideal for green storm water BMPs, but probably can't be used because of security concerns.

Dean asked if he could get the file on the potential goals for the Center for Sustainable Cities. He also stated that he would develop a draft of letter in support of the proposed project. The discussion then moved on to Planning Partnership Annual Meeting Topic: Dimming the Sun/Ohio Economic Council Paper. Joanne stated her intent for the program that the Mayors would be motivated to sign the Mayor's Climate Control Agreement and this would be a combined First Suburbs/OKI Caucus project.

Dean informed Joanne this proposal was not well received at the First Suburbs Executive Committee. He said Andy Dobson had told him he asked the Executive Committee about this proposal and got no support for it. Dean stated that it might be because the Dimming the Sun really aims to scare you to death, and maybe we need a different tact. With signing the Mayors' Agreement, these mayors would have to do something like change their fleets to flex-fuel and/or embrace green building. A better tack might be that these changes would help stem population loss and increase business expansion, like what has happened to Chicago. Various speakers were discussed as possibilities including Mayor Mallory and David Beech of Eco City Cleveland.

For other updates/news, Joanne told the committee that through her discussions with the leadership at Wilmington College they decided to renovate their Science Building to be LEED Silver certified. The Committee congratulated her on her effort. Dean stated that the Over-The-Rhine Summit will happen on this Thursday at Memorial Hall from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00p.m. He said there will be panel discussion at 6:00 p.m. and Jennie's Design Studios work for the Affordable Green OTR should be on display. There were no further comments and Dean stated the next meeting will be on October 17th and the meeting was adjourned.