

Nederland Sustainability Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes, 2011-10-05
Nederland Community Center

Attendees: Greg Wilson (Chair), Alan Apt, Jesse Seavers, Dallas Masters
Guests: James Wood, Boulder County Sustainability

1. Appointment of Secretary

Action: Alan Apt moved to appoint Dallas Masters as Secretary, seconded by Jesse Seavers, and passed unanimously.

2. Recommendation to BOT on granting a variance to NCBDR, LLC for paving parking lot at Thai restaurant

Discussion: The consensus of the group was that paving was not a sustainability goal due to increasing impervious cover, potentially increasing stormwater volume and erosion and pollutant run-off. Dallas Masters reviewed the information provided in the Planning Commission packet and suggested that Public Works had good ideas in recommending a variance in exchange for the owner providing a detailed drainage plan to mitigate run-off and erosion from the existing surface.

Action: Dallas Masters made a motion to recommend a variance be granted to NCBDR, LLC in order to not increase the impervious cover and that NCBDR, LLC follow the recommendations of Public Works in improving the existing parking area by mitigating run-off and erosion and incorporating plants and landscaping features into the existing parking lot. Motion was seconded by Alan Apt and approved unanimously.

3. Request by SolarGradens.org for help in siting possible solar gardens on Town land/facilities and using Town communications for recruitment of participants

Discussion: Greg Wilson discussed that Greg Ching has requested help siting possible solar gardens on Town land/facilities and using Town communications for recruitment of participants in local solar gardens. He is need of groups of 10 participants for 50kW installations, and he would like 40 percent to be low-income. Greg Wilson also mentioned that house installations are currently more economical than solar gardens, but this was a point needing more research. Alan Apt also thought the DDA and/or new chamber group may want to participate since many business owners are property renters who may benefit from solar gardens.

Action: Alan Apt moved that SAB recommend to the BOT to that the Town work with Greg Ching to use Town communication resources (internet, water billing notices, etc.) to publicize for solar garden recruitment. Motion was seconded by Jesse Seavers and passed unanimously. Alan Apt agreed to be the point person on the solar gardens issue.

4. Eco-Pass for town residents status

Discussion: Previously, Dawn Dennison had pursued an Eco-Pass for the Town of Nederland. The group discussed where the process was at and how to move it forward. Greg Wilson said that RTD wanted ridership info. Alan Apt said that the first year would be free (as in Lyons) and would then the subsidy would decrease in subsequent years.

The County is a partner and providing the subsidy. Dallas Masters recalled a discussion with Mayor Gierlach that recent DRCOG discussions had Nederland ranked high on the list of communities that would get Eco-Pass seed funding.

Action: *The group agreed to contact the County and Lyons about the program and follow up with Mayor Gierlach. Dallas Masters agreed to be the point person on this project.*

5. Siting and operation of County provided Earth Tubs for composting

Discussion: Greg Wilson reminded the group that the County has offered use of one to three Earth Tubs for composting and needs to have an answer by end of October. Each tub yields three yards of compost and is designed to compost large quantities without odors. They require 20 amp, three-phase power (\$100/year/tub) to occasionally turn the composter bin. The County also wants them insured. The group wants to pursue the pilot project and place the Earth Tubs on Town land either at the new or old Town shop sites. Public Works has suggested the new shop site (if power is available or generator could be used). The Town's insurance should be the most cost-effective for covering the Earth Tubs. Greg's non-profit has an established partnership with the Town on composting, and the group would cover the electricity costs (it can't use its funds for insurance) and be responsible for maintenance and labor (not Public Works). The non-profit volunteers would be volunteering for the Town to be covered by the Town's liability insurance, and they would undergo training and sign a liability waiver.

Action: *Dallas Masters made a motion to recommend that the BOT at its Oct. 18 meeting accept the Earth Tubs from the County and site them at the new town shop site. Additionally, the BOT should instruct staff to estimate insurance coverage for the tubs and have Public Works work with the non-profit on power and maintenance issues. Seconded by Greg Wilson and approved unanimously. Greg Wilson agreed to be the point person and follow up with the County.*

6. Sidewalks Phase 2 recommendation on accepting CDOT IGA

Discussion: At a previous meeting, the group discussed the Sidewalks Phase 2 and noted specific recommendations for the design phase to include sustainable components and ways to improve the project. Additionally, the project was scored using the draft sustainability scorecard in an effort to improve the scorecard and see how it worked with a test case.

Specific recommendations for the initial design were also noted, the most prominent being a strong suggestion to relocate the planned the section of sidewalk from St. Rita's Catholic Church to the Post Office. The SAB believed this section will not be well-utilized since most foot traffic to the Post Office is through neighborhood streets south of the highway. Instead, the SAB suggested connecting the RTD park-n-ride westward to the fire station (on the south side of the highway) would better serve an already heavily used walking corridor and the current Town residents who frequently use it. These detailed recommendations should be forwarded and discussed with the BOT and DDA during the design phase.

The group discussed making a recommendation to the BOT on accepting the IGA and recommendations for the initial design phase. The group also wants to work

with the BOT to put together a Town policy for future projects so that projects have a helpful guide to sustainability from the start of the project. The group noted that past resolutions are applicable to this project:

Resolution 2004-006: the project should follow LEED standards; contractors must demonstrate environmental protections

Resolution 2007-006: the project creates a compact, walkable community; the project promotes transportation options and use of public transportation; practice LEED building standards

Resolution 2011-021: increase social interaction and accessibility by disabled and elderly; adherence to LEED rating system; encourage alternative transportation such as walking, biking, and mass transit

Action: Dallas Masters moved that the SAB recommend the BOT accept the IGA with CDOT and move forward with the Sidewalk Phase 2 project with the understanding that the project must comply with Resolutions 2004-006, 2007-006, and 2011-021, specifically following and documenting LEED standards and contractor demonstration of environmental protections. Additionally, the SAB will supply, as part of this recommendation, a list of initial design recommendations and the draft scorecard results for use in guiding initial design considerations. The motion was seconded by Jesse Seavers and passed unanimously.

7. Other business

Trustee Mueller would like the SAB to present the scorecard to the community at an upcoming workshop. The SAB suggested asking the BOT to set a date on or before the next SAB meeting on Nov. 2.