

Onondaga Citizens League

“Greening CNY” Steering Committee Meeting Notes

July 21, 2009

Present: Jason Allers (co-chair), Peter Arsenault, Joe Ash, Carol Boll (study writer), Diane Brandli, Emanuel Carter, Lori Dietz, Hanah Ehrenreich, Chris Fowler, David Holder (co-chair), Dan Kelly, Carlo Moneti, Greg Munno, Ed Szczesniak, Mary Jane Szczesniak, Sandra Barrett.

REVIEW OF COMMITTEE PROGRESS TO-DATE:

Definition of Green: environmental impact subset of Sustainability Traits, focusing on “reduce, recycle, reuse” principles

Questions to be addressed by the study:

1. What are we doing Green? Is it enough? (An assessment; comparison to benchmarks)
2. How can we be more Green in CNY? (look at other places, model practices)
3. How do we make sure that the decisions we make have a beneficial effect on the environment?

Timetable: Study Report to be completed by May 1, 2010.

Audiences: individuals/families; business and organizations; municipalities.

UPDATES: Betsy Burton of OCPL, who attended last meeting, will not participate in committee meetings, but will serve as a resource to the committee and subcommittee.

DISCUSSION:

David reiterated that the Study process would begin with trying to get a handle on the ‘big picture’ of ecosystem, sustainability and why they are important, then attempt to understand where our community falls on a comparative assessment of environmental practices, measured against best practices and other benchmarks.

It was agreed that for the purposes of the study, the local community is defined as Onondaga County, although we may touch on other places in the metropolitan area.

The overall premise of the study is that ‘green is good’, although there may be lack of consensus on what particular green practices are good for the community and should become committee recommendations. Final title of the study may change. For now we will use the term ‘green’ for short-hand. A Glossary may be developed. All topic areas should be discussed in relationship to their importance to “being green” not their intrinsic value.

Public perceptions and motivations: the goal is to involve as many people as possible in a constructive way, help people feel invested in the conclusions. The subcommittee will consider value of pre- and post- surveys, polling, forums at particular points in the study process.

Each Subcommittee will describe its topic area and concepts and suggest possible speakers to answer the three questions: How does this topic relate to sustainability? What are current and best practices? What is being done in our community?

SUBCOMMITTEES:

Session Topic	Speakers/Resources – What are we doing Now; what other regions are doing	Committee Members - develop suggested panelist list	Timetable: Research July – September 2009
OVERVIEW			
Ecosystem – what is it? Why is it important?	Emanuel Carter, Richard Smardon, ESF	Emanuel, Sam	September 2009 Presentation
Sustainability – the big picture	Greening USA, The Amos Project?	Diane, Peter	September 2009 Presentation
TOPIC AREAS			
Land Use Planning		Megan, Sam	Sept – February Presentation
Green Infrastructure - roads, sewers , ecosystems		Karen ,	Sept – February Presentation
Transportation	Nell Donaldson, SMTC Rich Landerkin, CENTRO	Carlo	Sept – February Presentation
Other Energy Usage	Mike Kelleher, National Grid	Joe , Lori,	Sept – February Presentation
Green Buildings and Housing	US Green Building Council	Carlo, Peter	Sept – February Presentation
Waste Recycling			Sept – February Presentation
Natural Resources preservation; food, farms		Paul, Sarah, Sam	Sept – February Presentation
Green Jobs, Products, Services	Linda Hartsock, Tech Garden	Steve, Lori, Hanah, Kim, Brian Moore, Gifford Fd	Sept – February Presentation
Case Study presentation – Grand Rapids, Dubuque, etc.		Diane, Mary Jane	Sept – February Presentation
Public Perceptions and Motivations	Newhouse, Maxwell faculty	Greg, Dan, Ed	Sept – February Presentation

NEWLY RECOMMENDED RESOURCES (Other Resources listed on

http://onondagacitizensleague.org/ocl_studies/2009/study_resources.htm:

NRDC's Smarter Cities: <http://smartercities.nrdc.org/cities>

Sustainable Dubuque: <http://www.cityofdubuque.org/index.aspx?nid=606>

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, August 18, 4 – 5:15 PM, 307 University College

Agenda: Review Topic Areas proposals of Subcommittees