



Sustainable Broomfield Community Task Force

Minutes Meeting #1

April 22, 2009

Meeting Summary

This was the first Sustainable Broomfield Task Force Meeting. The expectations of the Task Force and their responsibilities were discussed. Community focus group results from meetings with Broomfield residents on sustainability were presented. The Task Force went through an overview of the 2005 Comprehensive Plan and went into more detail with the Environmental Stewardship Section. Finally, the Task Force was presented with a background on sustainability and the different definitions that have been used in the past.

Roll Call

Task Force Members Present: Mayor Pat Quinn, Linda Reynolds, Kevin Jacobs, Patrick Tennyson, Susan MacGregor, Beverly Pneuman, Marcia Heiser, Sam Taylor, Irene Lalich, Felix Flechas, Rick Ahrens, Jeffery Kerrane, Jeffery McPherson, Jean Wilkie, Hal Lunka, Linda Fahrenbruch, Judy Enderle, Roger Kelley, Jini Bates, Kerry Pettis, Nicholas Fazzini, Klea Jones, Mark Kuhl, Bryce Isaacson, Jeremy Fancher, Liz Law-Evans, Lisa Moore, David Hastings, Don Dunshee, Jessica Erickson, Jennifer Kerr

Absent: Geoffrey Urland, Aaron Loertscher

Others in attendance: Bob Gaiser, Randy Ahrens, Charles Ozaki, Kevin Standbridge, Kathy Schnoor, Derek Okubo, Anu Ramaswami, Debbi Main, Erin Wright, Meghan Bernard

Agenda Minutes

6:35 – Welcome and Introductions

6:40 – Derek Okubo, the meeting facilitator from the National Civic League (NCL), discussed the agenda for the Task Force. The Task Force has the responsibility to understand the Environmental Stewardship section of the 2005 Comprehensive Plan. They will begin work on a definition of “sustainability” and develop a vision for the task at hand.

6:44 – Task Force Introductions: The members present were asked to share their name, length of residence in Broomfield, and an expectation of themselves during the process in order to help this committee succeed. Many people had an environmental background and looked forward to learning more about sustainability and how they can make their community more sustainable.

April 22, 2009

Page 2

7:11 – Charge of the Task Force: To update the Environmental Stewardship section of the 2005 Comprehensive Plan

Derek laid out the Committee Process Outline:

- April – Kick off meeting
- May – Assessment 1
- June – Assessment 2
- July – Begin Work on Focus Areas (teams); Community Open House
- August – Goals, Policies, and Actions
- September – Goals, policies, and actions
- November – Community Open House
- December – finalize goals, policies and actions

Discussion of Meeting Day Options:

Three different meeting days were presented; 2nd Thursday, 3rd Monday, and 4th Wednesday. On each of these days at least 3 people could not attend the meetings. It was decided that the meeting days would be rotated through so everyone has an opportunity to attend the meetings. Meeting days will be posted on the Broomfield's Sustainability Project web page for future reference. Email meeting reminders will be sent to the Task Force prior to each meeting.

7:25 – Derek presented the operating agreements that the Task Force will follow at each meeting. These include, starting and ending the meetings on time, being on time/commit to meetings, no personal attacks, agree to disagree, everyone participates, one speaker at a time, make decisions by consensus, stay on the topic at hand, take a risk, bring ideas to the table, meet requested deadlines, and content decisions are made by the committee during the meetings. The group agreed to these guidelines.

7:28 – Community Focus Group Results presented by Erin Wright, graduate student at the University of Colorado Denver.

University of Colorado Denver graduate students conducted focus groups with residents of Broomfield to gain more insight into how residents define sustainability. Twenty-seven residents participated and discussed what they think a sustainable Broomfield would look like. Residents discussed positive characteristics of Broomfield including the small town feel and its convenient location between Boulder and Denver. Some negative characteristics about the community included concern about the auto-centric built environment and lack of community services for convenient alternative transit and lower income families. The focus group participants felt that sustainability was a balance between environment and growth, practical and financial benefits, and a concern for various populations. The group suggested several programs to address sustainability including green buildings, energy efficiency, renewable energy opportunities, smart grid and many others. One suggested method to promote sustainability is education of residents and the community. The responsibility for implementing sustainability was thought to be with the government through transparency and leading by

April 22, 2009

Page 3

example, businesses through leading by example and taking an active role in the community, and individual residents through engaging in local politics and changing their personal behavior. Focus group participants felt that one of the challenges to implementing sustainability would be the tension between growth, quality of life and revenues and the intangibility of outcomes and benefits of sustainability. Questions for clarification were asked after the presentation.

7:56 – Discussion of the implications of sustainability

After the focus group presentation the table was opened up for discussion on the issues of sustainability. The Task Force members recognized the conflict between growth, quality of life and revenue as biggest concerns. There was a concern that the focus groups and the upcoming surveys are not representative of the Broomfield population. Ways to increase responses to the survey were discussed.

8:10 – Break

8:20 – Dave Shinneman, Broomfield’s Planning Director gave an overview of the 2005 Comprehensive Plan. The plan provides citizens guidance for the development of the community in the future. The Comprehensive Plan has a vision statement with 10 elements within the plan. The definition of sustainability in the plan was stated as “long term social, economic and environmental sustainability of the community”. The Environmental Stewardship core values were stewardship of the environment; economic security and opportunity (balanced mix of land uses). The priorities covered in the Comprehensive Plan included fiscal sustainability within the plan, environmental stewardship, areas of change, areas of stability, interconnected open space and green edge, creating social gathering places, community services and facilities, walkable community. The Comprehensive Plan is broken down into goals, policies and action steps.

8:37 – Environmental Stewardship Section Summary was presented by Kathy Schnoor, Broomfield’s Environmental Services Superintendent. The goals of the Environmental Stewardship section include an environmental ethic, sustainability, quality of life, regional partnership, compliance, and education. Kathy went through each of these goals and the specific programs and how to attain these goals according to the plan.

8:56 – Defining and Measuring Sustainability – Dr. Anu Ramaswami, University of Colorado Denver

Dr. Ramaswami presented several different definitions of sustainability including the 1987 Gro Brundtland definition: “Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” Dr. Ramaswami also discussed the different components of sustainability to include the 3 E’s (environment, economics, and social equity). There are over 500 definitions of sustainability and Dr. Ramaswami presented the Task Force with a selection of them.

9:15 – Discussion of the Vision from 2005 Comprehensive Plan

April 22, 2009

Page 4

“Broomfield is the leader in implementing environmental stewardship policies that help to create a desirable and sustainable community now and for future generations.” The Task Force members were given the responsibility to review this vision statement and bring suggestions for improvement and revision to the next meeting.

Next meeting was scheduled for May 27 at 6:30 p.m. Task Force members are to review the Environmental Stewardship section of the Comprehensive Plan.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30

Approval

Minutes Prepared by Meghan Bernard

Approved by Linda Fahrenbruch
Chair