

NSIPP TAC Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: 11/10/09

Attendees:

1. Andrea Limauro: Office of Planning, Ward 3 Neighborhood Planning Coordinator and NSIPP Manager
2. Kara Reeve: Office of Planning, Urban Sustainability Planner
3. Deborah Crain Kemp: Office of Planning, Ward 5 Neighborhood Planning Coordinator
4. Brendan Shane: District Department of the Environment, Office of Policy and Sustainability, Director
5. Emma Hetnar: District Department of the Environment, Policy Analyst
6. Ellen Bass: Ward 3 Vision, NSIPP area resident
7. Eric Durland: Friends of Rock Creek Environment
8. Marlene Berlin: Connecticut Avenue Pedestrian Action, NSIPP area resident
9. Jane Salomon: ANC 3F Chair, NSIPP area resident
10. John McGregor: Politics and Prose Climate Action Project
11. Tom Whitley: ANC 3F, NSIPP area resident
12. Karen Perry: ANC 3F, NSIPP area resident
13. George Clark: Forest Hills Citizens Association, NSIPP area resident
14. Chris O'Brien: American University, Office of Sustainability, Director
15. Maisie Hughes: Casey Trees
16. Greg Drury: Wholeness for Humanity
17. John Wickham: Saint Columba's Episcopal Church

I. Over view and introduction

-Andrea Limauro provided an overview of NSIPP

II. Discussion about indicators. 2 kinds of indicators:

a) Baseline indicators – are “inactionable” indicators. The data for these indicators is data that city agencies and other stakeholders collect anyway like census data, WASA, PEPCO and Washington GAS consumption data, traffic and Metro use data etc. These are not indicators that the community can act upon to change easily or that they feel they can make a difference on. However, this data gives the community a good idea of the existing conditions in their neighborhood.

b) “Actionable indicators”: These are the indicators that residents can affect by taking direct action to change. This is a new set of indicators that nobody is tracking now as an integral effort. Some of these indicators can be affected by actions already been taken by some groups (i.e. FORCE already does Rock Creek clean ups – we just need to track their efforts and results and incorporate that data into the NSIPP set). Other indicators will come as a result of future community actions that will be created because of the mobilization created by NSIPP: e.g: set

goal for bike racks that the community can organize to get; e.g: track water usage by household (using Earthaid); create an energy coop; do a composting drive in the community etc..

III. Activities

- Lead to improvement of indicators
- Energize community to get them involved
- Cleanups are an example of activities that could be tracked
- Activities can lead to success with the actionable indicators

- Casey trees has data file that includes street trees and private trees, based on satellite imagery, street trees, ground up survey (being synthesized)

Question: Should we consider homeowners vs. multi-residences/condos/renters?

- Karen and others concerned that people not living in houses will not be able to participate
- Homeowners have different/often lesser ability to control decisions made about their home environment than renters

Discussion about including institutions in the study process:

- Sentiment was that we should involve broad constituency
- Some institutions already have working groups (like universities) Fred Fisher was named as a contact
- Should we have TAC break into working groups and one of them address institutions?
- Embassies – Karen Perry indicated interest in leading this effort
- Italian, Peruvian, Indonesian, others
- Embassy eco-tour is happening according to Greg Drury – maybe that's a vehicle to get them involved
- Could ask embassies to sponsor activities – like bike racks and other things
- Could try to get them to compete with each other. House of Sweden (though in Georgetown) has a sustainability display

IV. Indicator tracking

- Andrea described verbally what the 3 tracking options are:
 - Government
 - Research Body (like university)
 - 3rd party non-profit like a formalized TAC (community)
- Need to work more on defining indicator(s). Need a workgroup to work on collecting tracking best practices from around the country and internationally (Canada)

Challenge: need to make sure we have a system in place that can be consistent over time

Brendan Shane: maybe DDOE can put out an RFP to fund tracking project
-Maybe one university could track the data for NSIPP and other similar projects in the City (as pilot expands)
-could look at what DC is already tracking for regulation compliance, like the Clean Water Act
-is there a monitoring station in the study area? Is there one nearby?

Outreach

-Frank is the moderator of the Forest Hills list-serve- Andrea Limauro will send the announcement text to Karen Perry and she will send to Frank
Concern: reaching out to people who don't use computer/internet. Need to make sure we have handouts at the workshop for people to take home. Also need to leave material in the community (e.g. libraries, UDC and other)
- The question was asked as to whether there is anyone west of Rhino Road on the TAC (doesn't appear to be)

Discussion on commercial overlay for Van Ness

-Q: are we considering economic development indicators?
-Marlene Berlin, Jane Salomon, Karen Perry were very interested in this topic and were wondering if the UDC/Van Ness corridor needs an overlay to make sure that neighborhood serving retail is preserved and or enhanced.
-maybe we could track availability of amenities/uses in ANC 3F

Jane Salomon: Is there money available to help fund the activities associated with making the action happen for the "actionable indicators?"

Andrea: There could be some money available depending on what is decided the priorities are, however, this is not intended to be a government run plan. One of the key elements of this effort is to try to find alternative funding mechanisms and unleash private resources.

Greg Drury: Proposal for structuring TAC working groups:

-have members draw from the community outreach they are already doing
-propose projects already have and suggest some projects that overlap
-use google group or yahoo group to create and modify a master list of projects

Next Steps:

- Andrea Limauro will send future NSIPP announcements to Karen Perry and she will distribute them to neighbors and contacts in ANC 3F
- Andrea Limauro will set up google list-serve for the TAC
- Andrea Limauro will work with Karen Perry on scheduling the next TAC meeting in the planning area – maybe in Karen Perry's apartment building community room
- Andrea and others will work on recruiting more members

Meeting over 9:30pm