

**Alternative Energy Committee
Regular Meeting - July 6, 2009
City Hall Council Chambers**

Minutes

Attendance: John Sargent, Mary Weiss, Leif Albertson, Heather Pike.
Acting Chair: John Sargent, Secretary

General Discussion

Leif Albertson and Heather Pike expressed their interest in joining the Alternative Energy Committee. The procedure for joining has been for a person to send the City Manager an email requesting to join and state the reasons why he or she wanted to join.

People to be Heard

Julien Jacobs spoke under People to be Heard about the last agenda item on the list: Electronic Energy-Saving Devices for Household Use. He said that his company is working on the development of a smart grid system in which a computer program and electronic devices located in each room of the house communicate with each other through WIFI. The computer software system would monitor the electrical use of each outlet and allow the homeowners to program which outlets should be turned off during the day or limit the amount of wattage that goes through them.

Julien said that he hopes to bring the technology and set up a demonstration house in Bethel next summer. He said that his company has four systems installed in the San Diego area.

Individuals interested in more about what Julien or his company has to offer can contact him at Jacobs.julien@gmail.com

Old Business

A. Update on City Wind Power Project Times 4

John Sargent provided details of the City's submission of technical details to BUC and its request for an interconnection agreement and power purchase agreement with BUC, the City's appeal to the Regulatory Commission of Alaska for assistance, and BUC's ultimate response. Handouts of the letters were given to the group.

Several ideas were discussed to engender cooperation from BUC and/or prepare for legal action against BUC. The City should give timelines to each submittal to BUC and document all responses or lack of responses. The City should document each of the 14 items on the list of things BUC wants the City to take care of before it issues an interconnection agreement and power purchase agreement. The City plans to use Electric Power Systems to assist with the technical information that BUC requires.

B. Alternative Energy Fair in Bethel for Residential Users

The Committee discussed different versions of what an alternative energy fair might look like in Bethel, including formal presentations, exhibit booths, and activity area for children, and whether to include energy efficiency aspects. The Committee has the cultural center tentatively reserved for a fair on Saturday, September 19, 2009. All agreed that at least two sections of the cultural center would be needed, one for presentations and one for exhibit booths. The fair could take place Friday night and all day Saturday.

The Committee felt strongly that energy efficiency aspects should be included in the fair. They felt that more people would attend to learn about energy efficiency. As guest speaker Kirk Garoutte said at our last meeting, "It doesn't do any good to get a wind generator when your house is not energy efficient." Most people would get a better bang for their buck if they completed energy efficient renovations in lieu of pursuing alternative energy installation.

The idea of involving children in the fair was discussed. One or more teachers could give assignments to their class and projects could be judged at the fair. An adult could provide a children's activity related to the fair theme at the event (e.g., construct solar-powered model cars from kits).

The committee discussed the idea of including banks and other agencies that might finance a wind generator or home improvements.

Partnering with nearby villages was also mentioned. Would a village council be interested in helping to sponsor the event?

Inviting AVEC and TDX Power were suggested. The Committee liked the idea of affording TDX Power a chance to present who they are to the community and answer questions about their new role in Bethel.

The Committee recognized that weekly meetings would be necessary to carry off the event. To that end, the Committee decided to hold its next meeting on Monday, July 13, 2009 at 6:30 pm in City Hall.

John Sargent said he would come to the next meeting with a list of alternative energy vendors in Alaska. From this list, the Committee can invite them to speak and have booth space. Mary Weiss agreed to come to the next meeting with a sample invite letter.

The Committee agreed that an outline of what needs to be done should developed. A list of which committee members would be available this summer should also be developed. A high level of commitment will be needed to make the event successful.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned before all agenda items were discussed due to member time commitments this night. Next meeting will be Monday, July 13, 2009 at 6:30 pm in City Hall.