

Benchmarking Collaboration Ad Hoc Committee

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Meeting was called order at 4:30pm

Present: Susan Schmitz, Manus McDevitt, Chad Faber, Rajan Shukla, David Ahrens (needs to leave at 5:30pm), Willa Schlecht

Excused: Zach Brandon, Matt Phair, Jeannette LeZaks, John Sumi

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of September and October Meeting Minutes

Moved to table approving the minutes until next meeting

Unanimously approved

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None

DISCUSSION

1. Conference call with cities that are running voluntary programs.

Erin Miller from Columbus, OH – She reviews environmental footprint both city operations and community. Also works on recycling programs, local food, biking/transportation alternatives, and renewable.

Mayor of Columbus heard about energy benchmarking and disclosure ordinance and also some groups wanted Columbus to consider an ordinance. BOMA was not supportive – and mayor and BOMA created a task force. The committee was charged with putting together a program with goals and target dates and size of buildings. So the focus is for buildings over 50,000 square feet. Not focus on multi-family as it is more difficult to get data. The goal is 70% enrolled in the program within 18 months of the start of the program. The mayor indicated if the 70% goal is not reach – then it would go to mandatory.

Task Force started meeting in Nov/Dec of 2013 and launched program in June 2014 – so 14,000,000 million square feet of building registered – which is 62 buildings. We need 680 buildings registered to meet our goal. Working with BOMA on getting them to help get to the goal. Also partnered with USGBC – local chapter and utilities and recently with the port authority (county/city) because they have an energy efficiency and renewable program so we – marketing that program – and then energy challenge participates get first crack at the funding. There are things in the work to help with marketing – but it has been a challenge to get building owners to sign up. Easy to sign up just go to the web site. The building owner is then sent a packet – on how to use EPA

portfolio manager and how to send the information to the city. Of the 62 buildings that are in portfolio manager, 40 of these buildings were already in portfolio manager before the voluntary program started.

The reason for the slow rate of sign up is because there is a lack of motivation. Need to figure out how to make it more positive. We have heard that building owners don't have time. Someone from Snyder Electric – member of BOMA - has offered to do it for them – and then talks with the potential customers on services Snyder offers.

Some are concerned about the information because public. The city is only going to report on aggregate data, but there is worry that more of the EPA data will be publicly available.

We are working with the utility to get the information – a consultant create a program to download the from the utility and then uploaded it to EPA Portfolio Manager. Still working with utility on automatic upload.

There is no mandatory ordinance in the works right now – but we have many examples that we would use – this would require legislative approval.

Of the 62 buildings – most of them already use EPA portfolio manager – and most of them had already been using it... so there have been no problems with portfolio manager.

Having a marketing budget and hire a firm to do the marketing. It is hard to get peoples attention.

The Chamber served on the mayor's green team – IFMA – was on the task force. These groups have put it in their newsletter, etc.

Snyder Electric provides free EPA portfolio manager information and then talks with them about services they provide.

Miller – got off the call.

Schmitz – We at our last meeting – talked with three cities that have mandatory ordinances and now one that is voluntary program.

2. Discussion/Agreement of goals for the committee's work around carbon reductions priorities.

Schmitz – From last meeting we talked about how we care about energy, environment, etc... these were some of the notes from our from last meeting regarding goals.

Shukla – We have goals stated in the Sustainability Plan and in the plan there are some aggressive goals for carbon emission reduction.

Ahrens – We have a goal for 50% carbon emission reduction – benchmarking is a part of that.

Hoffman pulled up the Sustainability Plan on the computer for the committee members to review.

Faber – There is one group that wants mandatory and one that wants voluntary – how can we reach compromise?

Do we start with voluntary? Will the City provide support and funding? Will there be education?

Shukla – I agree that we can calibrate the program, but we also need to keep in mind that we are trying to reduce carbon emissions.

Schlecht – We need to measure this – you need to put your information into the program all buildings into the program that is the only way you can measure. To get the gains – you need a large group of buildings into the software.

Shields – Perhaps we can use incentives first then benchmark.

Hoffman – We need all building owners to sign up so we know where the low hanging fruit is so that the “partnership” can go to them and help them get to save money and lower carbon emissions.

McDevitt – Need high rate of benchmarking so you know the data.

Schlecht – Is there different types of disclosures.

Hoffman – Some just show EUI or Energy Star score. Others have more information.

Schmitz – We should bring in business community to engage the business owners in the process. At the EDC – there was a good discussion.

Schlecht – Does voluntary work?

Hoffman – There is no voluntary program that covers as many buildings as mandatory programs

Schlecht – what is energy reductions?

Hoffman – there are a few cities that have seen reduction – like NYC.

Faber – Most building owners do not know about energy efficiency programs that are available to them.

Shukla – What is the point of the discussion? We need to figure this out so that we do not have 6 months of discussions about voluntary vs. mandatory.

McDevitt – Mandatory is better. We should engage building community regarding a mandatory approach.

Schmitz – We should say to the building owners that we have done a lot of research and it looks like mandatory is the way to go because of the information, we want to share this information with you and educate you and ask you what you think.

Shukla – We need to determine this by Jan./Feb.

Schlecht – We need good presentations materials that explain and – education...

Schmitz – How can we get them to be partners.

Schlecht – We need to let them know about how will the training happen – What is the customer service that will be available?

Curt Brink – Indicated that owners think they need to achieve a certain energy efficiency level based on the goals of the plan.

Schmitz – This is really about getting building owners education and hopefully we both will learned something.

The Committee talked about the dates.

Hoffman will look for look reschedule our January meeting.

Schmitz, Faber, McDevitt – will work on getting business owners to the next meeting.

Schlecht – Offered to help getting materials together.

ADJOURNMENT

Shukla moved adjournment

McDevitt Seconded

Unanimously approved

Meeting was adjourned at 5:45pm.