

# SUSTAINABLE DECATUR

sensible responsible marketable

## Sustainability Team Meeting

**April 14, 2010**

### **Attendees:**

#### Sustainability Team

Keith Alexander-City Water Management Director

Monte Cherry-Executive Director for Sanitary District

Greg Crowe-Assistant City Manager

Jay Dunn-Chairman of County Board

Steve John-Agricultural Watershed Institute

Larry Livergood-Architect Architectural Expressions

Kathy Merner-Macon County Conservation District

Sue Neislie-Collation of Neighborhood Organizations

Bruce Nims- Milliken University

Ron Shumaker-Midwest Fiber

Beth Stringer –Decatur Magazine-Director of Chamber of Commerce

#### Staff/Consultants

Nick Burris- Chastain and Associates

Ben Carlisle-Teska Associates

Mary Cave-City of Decatur Engineer

Scott Goldstein- Teska Associates

Phil Hazenfield- Chastain and Associates

Vasudha Pinnamaraju – City of Decatur Planning

Lindy Wordlaw-CNT

### **Introductions**

- Group Introductions
- Welcome on behalf of City-Greg Crowe
  - Explained the role of sustainability team, purpose of plan
  - Emphasis on actual projects and measurable results
- Project outline and Sustainably Team Roles-Scott Goldstein
  - Sustainability Team Role
    - Policy function
    - Coordination



- Funding and partnering
- Focus on projects, find other partners, highlight and market existing projects, purpose is not to create new policies
  - Sustainability is holistic focusing on environment, economic, and social
  - Many issues to factors and balance
  - Overall goal is to implement practical solutions to improve daily life, household, and save energy
  - Might be bigger policy issues long term, but seeking balance through short-term programming
- Sustainability group will assist in defining sustainable measurements and indicators
  - Define sustainability
  - Establish indicator and measurable items
  - Prioritize action steps and projects
  - Focus on near-term action steps
- Working Group Role
  - Baseline indicators
  - Projects
  - Developing stakeholders
  - Working sessions
  - More technical advisor to Sustainability team
- Four focuses
  - Energy: consumption for households and businesses, transportation
  - Water: Stormwater and runoff, supply, and Lake Decatur, conservation, what can local residents do
  - Land: coordinated growth, low impact development
  - Recycling: household and business recycling programs

#### **May 19th Charrette Schedule-Scott Goldstein**

- Sustainability Team: 11:30 a.m -1:00 p.m
- Working Groups: 1:30-4:30 p.m
- Public Meeting: evening p.m, location downtown to be determined

#### **Website- Scott Goldstein**

- Tool for education purposes
- Website will evolve with draft strategies
  - List of resources/documents
  - List of materials-password protected then public availability
- Public comment section

## Visioning (one word)- Lindy Wordlaw

### Results:

- What is sustainability in Decatur today?
  - Challenged
  - Weak
  - Potential
  - Sporadic
  - Lack of communication
  - Hidden
  - Disconnected
  - Fragmented
  - Under appreciated
  - Unsustainable
  - Infancy
  - Opportunity
  - Unaware
  - Step in the right direction
  - Pessimism
  
- Where it will be?
  - Progressive
  - Consistency
  - Leader
  - Educational
  - Synergies
  - Sustainable
  - Normal-do it all the time
  - Smart-growth
  - Quality-of-life
  - Admired
  - Attractive
  - Model
  - Marketable
  - Desirable
  - Innovative
  - Diverse
  - Symbiotic
  - Easy-to-use
  - Livable
  
- Next Steps:
  - Consultant team and staff will take these ideas and craft a draft vision statement to present at next Sustainability Team meeting

## **Visioning (assets and opportunities)-Scott Goldstein**

### Results:

- Assets
  - Central location-highway, three railroads,
  - Lake Decatur-aesthetics, recreation, community pride, accessibility, source of water,
  - Agribusiness-prime farmland
  - Local industry
  - University-Milliken, Richland
  - Airport
  - Affordability
  - Skilled workforce
  - Spirit of volunteerism-generous
  - Two hospitals
  - Parks and nature preserves-5,000 acres of green space
  - Farm partnerships
  - Excess capacity in wastewater system
  - Infrastructure
  - Solid downtown-historic preservation
  - Cultural opportunities-arts, theater, music, museums, zoo
  - Bike paths
  - Entrepreneur and Venture Capital Program and local university programming
  - River
- Opportunities
  - High Speed Rail
  - Bio-Science / Bio-Energy
  - Clean coal
  - Regional market-Champaign, Bloomington, and Springfield
  - Higher education in region
  - Medical –clinical trials
  - Affordable land-good and bad
  - Free trade zone and custom clearance
  - Port of entry
- Threats
  - State budget
  - Global industry-job loss
  - Loss of population
  - Natural environment-draught/global warming/tornados
  - Illinois/Midwest business retention
  - Public apathy
  - Self image-blue collar

- Vacant and decaying urban core
- Public education
- Low crime rate, but still concern
- Large infrastructure asset management need
- Reliability of infrastructure
- Aging housing stock
- Lack of housing in city center
- Impositions Federal and state regulations-environmental and industry, economic burden
- Decent paying jobs

### **Next Steps-Scott Goldstein**

- Homework assignment: forward to us any photos, documents, and studies.
  - Email to [sustainability@decaturil.gov](mailto:sustainability@decaturil.gov)
- Please view website and comment on blog
- Review baseline analysis when released by City prior to next month's meeting
- Next meeting May 19<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 – 1:00 at Decatur Conference Center