

Fayetteville Council of Neighborhoods 6-21-07

Meeting Called to order by Mark at 5:30 pm

Neighborhoods in Attendance

Claire Wiseman	Woodland
Victoria Sowder	Mt. Sequoyah North
Michael Thomas	Sunset Woods POA
Jo Ann Kvamme	Root School NA
Sarah Lewis	Sang Valley NA
Mark Kinion	Wilson Park NA
Bob Caulk	Mt. Sequoyah South
Susan Jenkins	Elm/Baker
Jim Zont	Copper Creek
Tim Kring	University Heights
Karon Reese	Washington Willow
Katherine Adam	Town Mountain South
Aubrey Shepherd	Town Branch
Julie McQuade	Coordinator
John Coleman	Guest Speaker and New Sustainability Officer in Fayetteville

Background on Mr. Coleman:

- From Mountainburg, AR
- Degree in Civil Engineering from the U of AR
- Moved to Fairfax, VA where he work on Storm Water/Water Quality along with stream restoration quality
- Moved to Little Rock, AR to work on wetland restoration
- Once advanced to professional engineer he went to graduate school UT LBJ School of Architecture and Pulbic Affairs
- His interests are in research addressing how cities grow economic and environmental ways
- He worked for the City of Austin and developed the climate protection plan for Austin
- Thesis: What cites are doing to Impact Climate Change

Projects on board in Fayetteville when he arrived one month ago:

- Environmental initiatives
- City Plan 2025-Good start
- Alternative trails are impressive – not found everywhere
- Biodiesel station for city fleet opened – important also because uses biodiesel which uses raw materials from Stuttgart and Batesville!

- Will reduce emissions only 10%, but it is a first step
- U of AR leading the way with signing of Climate Change Agreement for University that will change vehicles over to hybrids and electric and refit buildings
- Wal-mart's sustainability 360 program is very impressive and the city will partner with them

Mr. Coleman's primary focus will be:

- Energy conservation for all city buildings
- Mayor has said his position will pay for itself
- Lower thermostat
- Replace old lamps with T8 lamps
- Once city in action then go out to the community and get everyone on board

International Council of North American Initiatives will be here July 10-13<sup>th</sup>

- This is a big deal and they will discuss economics of local actions
- We will be bringing in the neighboring communities and neighboring states
- Website – [www.icleiusaworkshop.org](http://www.icleiusaworkshop.org)

To speak with John Coleman

Phone 575-8272

E-mail [jcoleman@ci.fayetteville.ar.us](mailto:jcoleman@ci.fayetteville.ar.us)

Questions from the FCON members

Jim – Can we revisit how recyclables are collected? (he preferred the way it was done in Prescott, AZ and Ft. Smith where all is collected and sorted later).

Mr. Coleman – In the 1980's the city had to choose which way to recycle and they invested in the trucks so we need to separate recyclables and it is cleaner. Fayetteville has one of the best recycling programs with 57% participation and 51% of residential waste diverted

Bob – Multiunit housing is a problem

Jo Ann – One of the Environmental Dynamics Program PhD. 's (Dr. Stephan Pollard) conducted his dissertation research on recycling at a multi-family complexes.

Victoria- What can we do about Styrofoam?

John C. – There is a potential outlet for Styrofoam but it is not ready yet. A local group can melt Styrofoam to a polymer and it can be used to treat decks and fences.

Sarah – We can educate people to recycle.

John C. – Brian Pugh – shows why recycling is important he has lots of information. So far the only thing that pays is White and brown glass – we lose money on the rest of recycled materials.

Sarah – We need to buy recycled goods to encourage people to use them when creating goods.

John C. – Austin bars do not recycle glass either. The housing apartments have private companies (not the city) collect recyclables from apartments.

Julie – Brian Pugh has lots of information and will give it out. He will speak to Environmental concerns committee next month.

Sarah – What about low-impact development?

John C. – There have been inquiries from developers but we need to pursue this further. The state has guidelines to show developers. There is a street crossing that is approved but I'd like to get some guidelines down.

Groups asks about Spring Woods – Bob stated the Audubon would linen the land but needs \$5 million.

Sarah – Very little of the wetland was preserved.

Aubrey – Lots of wetlands should not be developed and used as rain gardens. Engineered storm gardens are great but the natural wetlands are also great.

Sarah – Sam's Club is almost done and houses are going in, townhouses are on a raised area above the wetland and the road is in on the golf course side. Sustainability issues are leaning toward the climate change side what about land use, sprawl, etc.?

John C. City Plan address that but will we follow the plan? Sprawl needs cars. Buildings are responsible for 50% or more, up to 75% of electricity used in America. Difficult to educate contractors/builders because it takes time and that costs them money. We need incentives for green buildings.

Victoria – Builders waste a lot of stuff.

John C. – LEEDS addresses construction/demolition waste – they get points at each step for recycling, infill, etc. Some examples of LEEDS building is the Clinton Library, Heifer International building, the Innovation Center was the 1<sup>st</sup> built.

Bob – How about the new Fire station?

John C. – Fire Station #3 has some LEEDS features. We also have a chance with the changes to the police and court building.

Mark – Are there green parking lots?

John C. Yes.

Sarah - Each level has a rain garden to collect the run-off.

John C. 40 pages of document for city/state government that have LEEDS influences 2-4% investment up front will pay for itself. It would be nice to have all government building over 3000 sq feet following LEEDS guidelines. Austin had the first green building code with a 1-5 star system in concurrence with the LEEDS guidelines. Homes and every building need at least one star.

Diane – How about reusing old buildings?

John C. – This is another part of LEEDS. Research is there – we just need to present it to the planning department and the city council. In the private sector it is harder since there is risk with the higher cost of construction.

Mark – Thanks!

John C. I would like to come back in a year to update the group. There will be an article in USA Today on Friday about Fayetteville.

Sarah – What can we do to help?

John C. – Try to educate yourself. Great articles are in the Economist. Also subscribe to idealbite.com - they send a daily e-mail that tells you what you can do (with statistics). Example: take cloth bags to the grocery store and save oil use making plastic bags. We must show financial benefit for people.

Mark – will you be working with planning?

John C. Yes, I will work with all departments. Planning commission would be a great place to push LEEDS standards. Presently, I am under the mayor in my own division.

### **Neighborhood Notes:**

- University Heights – Picnic. Developing a traffic map and survey – too much cut through traffic.
- Copper Creek – Councilman B. Ferrell out to speak at the dedication of Kachle Park (4.5 acres). We are taking bids for a playground. Very high praise for the Botanical Gardens!

- Elm – Quiet
- Wilson Park – Tax money going to street improvement . Rock walls maintenance. Help preserve rock walls.
- Sang Valley – Youth CAN to be taken over.
- Washington Willow – St. Joseph’s Park, FHS support – fayar.net to get school board members
- Sunset Woods – quiet
- Mt. Sequoyah North – houses not selling very fast.
- Woodland – Summer picnic July 7
- Copper Creek – Quiet
- Town Branch – Aspen Ridge still not developed
- Town Mt. South – Slow food Fayetteville, Heritage Turkey Tasting in November, County crews sprucing up Archibald Yell. AIB judges.

Next meeting:

- FHS representatives from school board
- Walker Park plan
- FDP – will share about arts!
- Audubon – Neighborhood Water Monitoring