

## Urban Habitat Chicago

Meeting minutes

May 2, 2005 at 7:00–11:00 pm

Echo Studio

551 W. Wellington Ave. 3N



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### *In attendance:*

AG Anna Glenn  
DH Dave Hampton  
AM Anupama Mohanram  
GP Glen Pierce  
GeoP Geoff Prairie  
BS Barbara Shaw

(XX) denotes team member giving briefing

<XX> denotes team member responsible for action item

### **A. Introductions (7:30 PM)**

### **B. Presentation of alternative building techniques**

1. Date rescheduled from June 4 to Sept. 13, 24 at Chicago Center for Green Technology – to be confirmed by sending a proposal (DH)
2. Prepare proposal – determine focus of presentation (Ex.: strawbale + cob + other), target audience, associated costs. Send to Elise Zelechowski, CCGT <DH, Jen Pierce>
3. Focus of presentation may be fluid and could develop and be better defined as we explore materials (and the group dynamic!) at next meeting.
4. Consider alternate venues such as IIT, since an earlier date may be good for public exposure for the group.
5. Obtain/verify materials will be available for next meeting <BS, Dan Kastilahn>; additional materials have been harvested <M. Repkin>; Columbia College shop facility and materials are available for our use (GeoP)
6. Proposed staging location and date for building demonstration sample wall: Coach house or courtyard at 1309 S. Kedzie  
9:00 am, Saturday, May 21

### **C. The Gift House complex, 1309 S. Kedzie**

1. The *Gift House* is an AIDS treatment advocacy organization interested in providing office space, financial and political support, and media exposure to UHC to develop a group of buildings and property which includes a two-story carriage house and adjoining community garden into a flagship sustainable community for a blighted southwest Chicago neighborhood. Office space Mike Repkin is leading client interaction. Work currently progressing (site clearing and grading) on the community garden. (BS)
2. Schedule and design intent to be communicated to team members re: progress on site work < BS, M. Repkin>
3. Proposed on-site meeting dates:  
8:00 am, Sunday, May 8 <AG, GP, BS> or 8:00 am, Wednesday, May 11 <all>  
Primary purpose of this visit is for orientation to entire complex, introduction to the client, and documentation of carriage house (photo, video, field measurements)

#### **D. Garden utility shed/greenhouse, 6160 W. Thorndale Ave**

1. The owner of a private residence is interested in working with UHC to design and build a garden utility shed/greenhouse or strawbale or cob. Potential opportunity for this to be hands-on workshop(s) of one or more extended weekends led by an instructor. An outline of initial planning to determine project feasibility was distributed (AM).
2. Discussion – is an instructor needed, or would our group be prepared to build with experience gained from building the demonstration sample wall? Issues: professional liability, signed and sealed structural engineer/ architect drawings, building permits, etc.
3. Members should contact individuals located near Chicago interested in leading such a workshop <AG, AM, DH>. Donations could help defray the associated costs, or a nominal fee could be charged.
4. Continue exploring the feasibility of the project acknowledging the time constraints of the group members during a design phase vs. construction phase <AM>.

#### **E. Other potential projects**

1. ‘Greening the Heartland’ Legacy competition (DH) – email sent by DH to contact at USGBC; no further information available or discussion held on this topic.
2. Limited monitoring of a Chicago residence (DH)  
Contact George Sullivan and others re: suggestions for what and how to monitor <GP, Jennifer Pierce>; follow up on email to Lou Host-Jablonksy of Design Coalition <DH>
3. Urban Habitats Competition – redesign of a trailer park in Charlottesville, VA without displacing residents (DH)  
May 8 registration date, July 1 submission date, \$50 student fee required

#### **E. Continuing education**

1. Summary of April 22–23 Sustainable Living Fair (GP, AG, GeoP).  
Additional materials and summaries available upon request.
2. ‘High Density, Low–Rise Urban Development’ by Peter Land,  
6:00–8:00 pm, Tuesday, May 3, Chicago Center for Green Technology
3. ‘Greening the Heartland 2005’ Expo ([www.greeningtheheartland.org/](http://www.greeningtheheartland.org/))  
May 31–June 3, Palmer House Hilton, Chicago
4. ‘New and Powered by Nature’ by Peter Land, May 17 at 5:30pm, AIA Chicago
5. Visit to the sustainable community of Stelle, IL (AG)  
Sunday, June 5; transportation and meals fees are likely
6. Midwest Renewable Energy Fair ([www.the-mrea.org/energy\\_fair.php](http://www.the-mrea.org/energy_fair.php))  
June 17–19, Custer, WI

#### **F. Member networking opportunities**

1. Chicago Architecture for Humanity meeting  
7:30 pm, Tuesday, May 3, Design Within Reach, 1574 N. Kingsbury, Unit A <DH, GP>
2. ‘Greening The Heartland’ Legacy project meeting, May 3 at 6:00 pm, McBride Kelley Baurer 1417 N. Dayton <anyone available?>

#### **G. Ongoing issues**

1. Sponsorship – Several interested organizations have inquired about donations of material, services, and financial assistance (BS). Members to identify best use of donations, ex.: filing for nonprofit status, laptop and projector, stipend for future lectures or seminar instructors. Inquiries on this matter may be directed to Glen Pierce.

2. Nonprofit filing – To be resolved <BS, GP>. Estimated cost \$600, to be defrayed by corporate donations? A separate meeting to be held (date to be determined) to select Board of Directors and agree upon mission statement, business plans, future goals, etc.
3. Website development – Update; many links currently inactive, blogs, case studies, etc. not functioning <Jen Pierce>
4. Advertising/media coverage – Ex.: BelieveChicago, CCGT, Dept. of Environment, corporate sponsors, local colleges and universities such as IIT, Columbia <GeoP>, Northeastern University <Mike Repkin> etc. (DH)

#### **H. Future UHC-sponsored presentations to generate interest and support**

1. 'SmartHouse' by N.C. architect Frank Harmon, fall 2005 (DH)  
[http://www.aia.org/aiarchitect/thisweek05/tw0415/0415pw\\_smarthouse.htm](http://www.aia.org/aiarchitect/thisweek05/tw0415/0415pw_smarthouse.htm)

#### **J. Next meeting agenda/goals**

1. Start building sample mini-wall(s) and get hands dirty... no paper, pens, or fancy meeting minutes!

#### **K. Adjourn (11:00 PM)**

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This document constitutes an understanding of items discussed during this meeting. If a discrepancy is noted or if additional information should be considered, please contact the author in writing within 7 days, otherwise, this document will stand as a record of the proceedings with all parties in agreement.

Prepared by D. Hampton

cc.: attendees + UHC listserv recipients