

MIGREENPOWER COMMUNITY IMPACT PILOT
LOW-INCOME SOLAR COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
March 4, 2025

Minutes transcribed from recording by Jessica Jamieson

The meeting was called to order at 11:11 AM by Chandler Kielbas.

At 11:11 AM Chandler Kielbas asked the Council if everyone had the opportunity to review the meeting agenda. Chandler acknowledged that Janis Hazel had requested that public comments should be added to the Community Engagement section of the agenda and states that some time can be allocated to discuss that. Chandler then asked if any other additions needed to be made. There were none. Chandler asked the Council to motion to approve the meeting agenda. Janis Hazel moved to approve and Juan Shannon seconded the motion.

At 11:12 AM Chandler Kielbas stated that the February 18, 2025 meeting minutes could be passed because the council did not have quorum that day and the meeting was cancelled.

At 11:13 AM Chandler Kielbas began discussion on the RE-EIED Grant recap. Chandler communicated to the wider Council that DTE Electric is pursuing the additional RE-EIED Grant funding that was announced by the MPSC last month. He addressed that Janis has met with the team multiple times to be a part of the grant writing sessions. He stated that by March 13, 2025 a draft will be shared to the LISC Council to allow for any additional feedback or comments before the March 20, 2025 deadline. He reminded the Council that there is only \$4.875 million available for this round of grant funding dispersed among a handful of other applicants. With this, DTE Electric does not plan to ask for the entirety of these funds. The exact amount of funding to ask for had not yet been decided. He then asked if the Council members had any questions or comments. Juan Shannon questioned when the budget number would be decided and that information given to the Council. Chandler stated that the budget was currently being worked on and that that information would be given to the Council on March 13, 2025 with the completed draft of the grant. Juan had no further questions. Janis then commented that she would agree to be listed in the grant application as personnel focusing on community engagement.

At 11:17 AM Chandler Kielbas moved to the next order of business, focusing on other potential grant opportunities. He let the Council know that him and his team have reached out to the Canton Community Foundation (CCF) about some grant opportunities to see which projects they would be willing to be a fiduciary for. He continued that he would be open to receiving any more grant suggestions in the future. Janis Hazel commented that the Environmental Protection Agency's Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program has webinars on March 13, 2025 and March 27, 2025 to discuss the subgrants of \$75,000 to \$350,000 that are available. Janis also mentioned that there could be some grant opportunities available through the Minneapolis Foundation. Chandler thanked her and then asked the wider Council if anybody else had any grant opportunities or comments before they continued.

At 11:22 AM Chandler Kielbas moved to discussing the 1898 & Co presentation from the LISC meeting on February 4, 2025. Chandler opened the floor to comments. Janis Hazel expressed that she thought it was a good presentation and is interested in if the Marathon property is viable. She mentioned that it would be excellent if the lease can be granted to DTE at no cost. She said that she would want to see the property in-person, especially regarding the shrubbery placement to shield the residential house near the property from glare issues. Chandler responded that these variables would come into deeper consideration once the piece of land is officially confirmed for the project and will become a factor in construction. He then asked for further comments from the Council and there are none. Chandler then stated that he thought the slides from the 1898 team were put together fantastically and that he appreciated their technical analysis when it came to displaying aspects of the project like the tilt of the solar arrays, which direction they should face, etcetera. He again asked for any additional feedback and there was none.

At 11:26 Chandler Kielbas moved to reviewing community engagement initiatives proposals. He then shared the Community Engagement Initiatives Proposal 3_18_24 Excel document to the Council. Janis Hazel stated that the MI Solar for All Listening sessions include a portion where certain organizations volunteer to unmute their microphone and give a brief statement of their beliefs. She expressed that an advocate from the LISC should be prepared and present a brief statement during the next listening session. She also said that DTE could email the MI Solar for All group so that DTE would be on-record with feedback pertaining to how MI Solar for All should focus on developing the current grants they are awarding. She stated that she would attend all four of the listening sections and that it would be good if Juan Shannon or Darryl Folks could join one as well. Chandler then asked if Janis whether she thinks a comment at the listening sessions or submitting an email would be more impactful. Janis stated that these would both be impactful but by making a comment at the listening session attention might be sparked from other community members. Chandler comments that the March 20, 2025 listening session falls on the same day that the RE-EIED Grant application is due and so this would be an important day for the team. He then asked Juan if he would like to be involved with these sessions or if he had any additional commentary. Juan stated that he is slightly confused about the dates of the listening sessions. Janis clarified that the March 20, 2025 listening session would be focused on residential solar upgrades and storage and the final listening session would be on April 10, 2025 focusing on the same topic. She asserted that Juan and her should attend both. She then voiced that she would like to work with the Council to formulate the comment she intends to make. Chandler then asked Juan to let the Council know if he would be able to attend and if he would be interested in formulating the email comments Janis mentioned. Juan replied that he may be able to do that but is getting married on March 14, 2025 so he might be busy. Chandler congratulated him and then stated that he would put together a working session in the next couple weeks with Darryl, Janis, and Juan to construct the comments and that it would be alright if he did not attend. Juan voiced that if the council sent out an email he would be able to contribute some questions. Boratha Tan then expressed that the comments read by the community leads during the listening session would be more compelling. Chandler agreed and asked if there were any follow-up thoughts. There were none. Chandler then told the Council to be on the lookout for a future email progressing this topic further and a meeting session to discuss the comments. Chandler then asked Janis if she would like to speak about any of the

other community engagement opportunities listed. Janis says that during the Michigan Justice40 Accelerator Winter Summit last month many people from the Michigan Environmental Justice Group were concerned with how federal funding will be affected in the coming months. This is the topic being discussed in their upcoming listening session on March 6, 2025, which she will be attending. She also mentioned that she will be attending the Detroit Green Task Force meeting on March 20th as well. She stated that by doing this the council is engaging stakeholders and that at some point the LISC could retrieve letters of support by listening in on these meetings. She also stated that she is in favor of a working session with the community representatives. Janis said that it is especially important for people to understand that DTE's solar project includes real people from the community represented by Juan, Darryl, and herself. Chandler added that it will be important to demonstrate that DTE is not profiting from any of these projects and it is 100% charitable. Juan then asked where this information came from. Chandler replied that it can be found in the settlement agreement with the MPSC where it states that DTE cannot receive a return on the projects in any way. In this settlement it was agreed upon that DTE would be spending up to \$900,000 to build these projects. Juan then questioned how DTE would not be profiting from this project if the people receiving the renewable energy would still be paying DTE Electric bill payments every month and receiving a discount. Chandler replied that there is an answer to that question but he did not have the specifics at this time. He said that Kayla Maas would be knowledgeable about that and that Juan could potentially send her an email after the current meeting or re-ask the question in the next meeting if she is present. Chandler then asked if Sam Shannon could offer any insight. Sam answered that utility rates can be essentially thought of as a sales price to participants and with the costs incurred from the project DTE would be collecting slightly less revenue than if the program was absent. Juan then asked how the real estate, equipment, and labor will be paid for with this and how obtaining these materials through the Canton Community Foundation would contribute to DTE's profit. Sam responded that the construction and labor would factor as an expense. He then said the equipment would be similar to how car values decrease over time. It will be bought at a high price, but after being put into use it will dramatically decrease in value. This essentially means that there is no money to be made from the equipment. Sam conceded that he did not exactly know how obtaining the land would factor into the budget but that it is certain that the land cost would in no way influence electricity bills. He expanded that this information could potentially be obtained from the DTE accounting department. Juan then stated that even if the electricity bill did not increase, DTE would be obtaining land that was paid for by the non-profit and given ownership. He explained that DTE would be gaining an asset and therefore a profit. Will Kenworthy then explained that the way DTE earns profit is by the Commission giving them a return on capital invested and putting this into the rate base. If DTE does not put this into the rate base they will not be earning a profit. Sam then responded that Will is technically correct but, to Juan's point, land would be considered a non-regulated asset. Since DTE is a regulated monopoly, the land asset would never be factored into electric rates, however, if DTE sold the land on the unregulated side of the house for more than it cost them they could make a slight amount of money. He elaborated that there is most likely some structure within the fiduciary that could prevent the buying and selling of land from becoming a profit generator if this became a large concern. Chandler then mentioned that the potential donated Marathon land, a brownfield, has very little value to begin with and that the

property taxes on that land over the life of the project most likely would account for any small revenue to be gained from selling the property. Will then asked if Marathon was donating the land or if they were just going to do a long-term lease for it. Chandler stated that at this point it is not decided but if it was the lease, it would not be in DTE's name so the profitability would not be a concern and if Marathon ends up donating the land the property taxes could offset the value of it if it was ever sold. Chandler then shared the "MIGreenPower Flex Bill Example on his screen. Will then explained that the MIGreenPower program, which runs on the same program as this project, includes customers contributing to building an asset and then receiving credit for their share of the energy they have created. This credit is applied after the energy bill has been calculated. With this new program, the customer would incur no additional cost because they are not paying the subscription fee. They would only have the bill credit be applied. The customer would still be paying the top half of their electric bill but this is entirely separate from how the program functions. Juan clarified that it is not a deal-breaker whether DTE is making a profit off of the program or not, but he feels it is misleading to say that DTE will not profit from this program in the slightest. This is especially important to explain when speaking to other community representatives and those who do not necessarily trust DTE. It is important to have a real explanation for how real-estate factors into DTE's profit. Chandler then thanked Juan and Sam for asking and answering these questions. Will then added that the fiduciary is helpful the separate the value of the subscription credits to customers from the financial arrangements that will allow the facility to be built. Subscription allocation will be in the hands on a non-profit which is a benefit to how the subscription is now centered. Juan then brought up that the bill Chandler still had presented on the screen did not appear to be a savings at all. Chandler answered that the example bill is from MIGreenPower where people pay a premium to be involved, and is not related to the program. However, we do not have examples of the Community Impact Pilot bill at this point.

At 11:58 AM Chandler Kielbas moved down in the agenda to the land discussion update. Chandler let the council know that Janis, him, and a few others will be meeting with Marathon on March 6, 2025 to discuss whether they will be donating or leasing the land and come to an agreement. He told the Council that any results of that meeting would be provided to them.

At 11:59 AM Chandler Kielbas asked the Council if anything needed to be added to the action item registry. Juan Shannon asked if the community engagement event in Parker Village on April 9, 2025 was still listed in the Excel file detailing community events. Chandler clarified that it should be in a separate community engagement file for Highland Park that Juan and him had worked on previously but that it would be a good idea to add it into this document as well. Chandler then added this event to the spreadsheet.

At 12:02 PM the meeting was adjourned.