

MIGREENPOWER COMMUNITY IMPACT PILOT
LOW-INCOME SOLAR COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 2, 2024

Minutes transcribed from recording by Chandler Kielbas.

The meeting was called to order at 11:08 AM by Chandler Kielbas.

At 11:09 AM Chandler Kielbas asked the Council if everyone had the opportunity to review the agenda. Chandler then asked if there were any additions to the meeting agenda, and there were none. Janis Hazel stated she had no additions for the agenda but mentioned having additions for the meeting minutes. Chandler asked the Council to motion to approve the meeting agenda. Janis Hazel moved, and Boratha Tan seconded the motion. Chandler asked for a vote to approve the meeting agenda for the meeting on July 2, 2024, and the motion was unanimously approved.

At 11:10 AM Chandler Kielbas asked the Council if everyone had a chance to review the meeting minutes from June 18th, 2024. Chandler then asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 18th, 2024. Janis Hazel explained that the meeting minutes additions will need to be added before the minutes can be voted on for approval. Chandler asked for a vote to approve the meeting minutes from June 18th, 2024, and the motion was postponed.

At 11:11 AM Chandler Kielbas began discussing reflections on the Lunch and Learn from June 24, 2024. Chandler stated that he felt it went generally well and asked the Council for their feedback relating to the event. Janis Hazel said she thought it went well and believed that the event had a good turnout compared to the number of invitations that were sent out. Janis then talked about ideas for improvement moving forward and suggested a more strategic placement of the invitation graphic in the email. Janis also said sending the email out a whole month in advance instead of three weeks and including a graphic displaying the councilmembers could be an improvement. Janis concluded with her excitement about the prospect of securing land. Chandler shared that the total turn out of people at the event was a number higher than the max at any one time as several people had joined and several people had dropped from the meeting throughout the event at different times. Chandler thanked Janis for her feedback and suggestions for future improvements. Boratha Tan thanked Janis for highlighting the differences between the City of Detroit's solar program and the Council's Impact Pilot during the event. Chandler seconded Boratha's statement and expressed his surprise when learning about how similar the two projects are and how there could be confusion involving them. Chandler thanked the Council again for both attending the event and reflecting on it.

At 11:23 AM Chandler Kielbas asked Juan Shannon if there are any updates regarding connecting with the CED Director for Highland Park. Juan was having difficulties with the voice setting during the meeting and was unable to speak. Chandler stated that he had heard that Juan's recent meeting with Eddie Smith and the CED Director for Highland Park went well. Chandler

then suggested that perhaps Juan would be able to provide more details later in the meeting if he is able to sort out the issues with his voice settings before the end of the meeting.

At 11:25 AM Chandler Kielbas began reviewing previous community engagement initiative proposals and prompted Janis Hazel to share details about her entries. Janis stated she was going to a lot of community meetings to get in front of councilmembers and find out how different representatives feel about solar. Janis shared that she feels a lot of communities do not seem receptive to having solar projects built in their neighborhoods. Janis also said she will be going to an event at the end of July with her state representative to talk about any potential state funding. Chandler asked Janis for assistance in understanding the general sentiment of solar in the Detroit communities as he thought that communities had been applying for solar in the Mayor of Detroit's solar plan. Janis suggested that the core reason communities were especially receptive to solar in the mayor's plan was due to the many community benefits being offered to the residents in the solar project neighborhoods such as financial amounts towards energy waste reduction and home repair investments into their homes. Conversely, while the Impact Pilot that the Council is working on provides benefits in the form of bill credits, the benefit amounts may not be as big of an incentive from the residents' perspective. Janis also stated that different neighborhoods in Detroit had varying opinions about solar, and that often it seems that areas that are some of the highest income neighborhoods in the city do not want to be involved with solar projects at all. Janis shared that there was a case study that the University of Michigan did about the O'Shea field 2015 solar park and the lessons learned about the importance of community engagement regarding solar projects. Chandler thanked Janis for all that feedback and then read a comment from Juan Shannon where he asked about the reasons for opposition to solar projects from the communities. Janis stated that part of the reason is education about solar, and another part of it was likely the aesthetics of a solar project being in a neighborhood. Janis suggested that there were lots of opportunities for Detroit residents to be educated on sustainability initiatives as they are behind on several examples such as recycling, solar, and bike lanes. Janis mentioned that location also matters in relation to receptivity and for example that option of putting a solar project in an industrial area instead of a residential area would likely be a result that community residents would be more willing to welcome. Janis also mentioned that part of the deficit regarding the education around solar is due to not much advertising or social media presence with renewable energy. Chandler stated that there are social media postings for renewable energy by put out by DTE, but due to the fact that DTE is a utility company and involved in far more activities than just renewable energy that perhaps they get lost in the ocean of other social media posts regarding the company.

At 11:42 AM Chandler Kielbas shared a DONcast update. Chandler stated since the Mayor of Detroit's solar plan has been delivered and the Lunch & Learn has successfully taken place that the plans for a DONcast presentation can potentially resume. Chandler asked if the councilmembers felt ready to get it rescheduled or if it was too soon since the mayor's announcement. Janis Hazel stated she felt enough time has passed and it would be acceptable to get a date on the schedule to present. Chandler asked the Council if anyone else had opinions on the DONcast planning or schedule, and no one else had anything to add.

At 11:44 AM Chandler Kielbas gave a fiduciary update. Chandler stated everything was going well, but due to the holiday week and a lot of key contributors being on vacation that nothing was moving for the time being. Chandler stated there were plans to hold meetings after people have returned to office to resume activities on the contract. Chandler asked if there were any questions regarding the fiduciary update, and there were none.

At 11:48 AM Chandler Kielbas opened the Action Item Register. Chandler stated that all the items that had previously been added to the register have been completed and nothing needed review. Chandler then asked if there were new action items that needed to be added to the register for future meetings. Chandler stated he would add one to reschedule the DONcast, and Janis Hazel stated an action item to follow up with the DTE team and corporate communications to compose a letter for Tepfirah Rushdan to be able to utilize for potential land acquisition in Detroit.

At 11:50 AM Chandler Kielbas asked the Council if there were any other roundtable items that we could address before adjourning the meeting for the day. Janis Hazel said she was all set for the meeting. Juan Shannon commented on his difficulties with the Microsoft Teams app, and Janis seconded having problems with the application as well. Janis also mentioned that problems with Microsoft Teams as a key reason the Lunch & Learn was conducted over Zoom. Chandler thanked the Council for having a good attendance by the members considering it was a holiday week and shared his appreciation for their productivity during the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 AM.