

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(2)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: MARCH 18, 2008

SUBJECT: Creation of Local Living Economy Task Force

DEPARTMENT: MANAGER'S OFFICE	PUBLIC HEARING: NO
ATTACHMENTS: A - Resolution	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: James Harris (918-7319)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this item is for the Board of Aldermen to finalize the mission and consider the make-up of the proposed Local Living Economy Task Force (LLETf).

INFORMATION

The idea for this task force arose at the 2008 Board of Aldermen planning retreat. It seemed to be the Board's pleasure to move forward with the idea of a separate, time-limited task force in order to facilitate to the greatest extent possible the speed and efficiency of the task force.

Mission

A proposed mission statement is included in the attached resolution and may be modified by the Board during this meeting. The general idea is that the task force will investigate strategies for helping to foster the development of a locally owned, run, stocked (etc.) economy. It has been proposed that they study, among other things strategies focused on "thinking local first, identifying and plugging leaks, mobilizing small businesses, entrepreneurship training, investor mobilization, and public policy reform." Additional topics of interest identified by other Board members as issues the LLETf might look into include sustaining the arts and creating more affordable house. They will prepare recommendations for the Board of Aldermen regarding the prioritization and implementation of those strategies and will bring reports containing those recommendations to the full Board at least every six months while the task force is meeting.

Membership

A suggestion for the make-up of the LLETf has been made which would include staff support as well as the following membership:

- 2 members from the Economic Sustainability Commission (ESC)
- 2-3 members from the local business community
- 2-3 at-large members
- 2 Aldermen

Duration

A suggestion has been made that the LLETf meet for 12-18 months. The Board of Aldermen may or may not wish to set a specific sunset date for this task force, but the resolution is worded so that the Board may do so if they wish.

FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT

The task force itself would not entail any fiscal impact, though implementing specific strategies they come up with might. There will likely be two staff members attending most if not all LLETf meetings, both of whom already have weekly evening meeting commitments for the Town. It is unclear how often the LLETf will be meeting, though *monthly* was suggested.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend that the Board finalize the mission, membership, and duration / meeting schedule of the Local Living Economy Task Force.