

Kennedy Klips

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A "Go-Green" Update

We intended, and have been asked, to provide Kennedy residents more information about the "Go-Green" project and the school building. We will continue to use the *Kennedy Klips* to provide information this month and next month, prior to our citizen's vote in late August.

Project Background. The money the City of Kennedy received from the federal government for the "Go-Green" project was stimulus money—stimulus money provided during the current economic downturn to applicants/projects that would in-turn use the money to stimulate the economy through the creation of jobs. The "Go-Green" project, as presented to the federal government, anticipated the creation of, "...16-20 jobs by the end of 2010. In less than 24 months...an estimated payroll of almost a million dollars." Quarterly, the City of Kennedy must report to the federal government the project's actual job creation numbers and explain any shortfall. "The current economic downturn ..." is not a satisfactory explanation.

Project Review. The project is being reviewed on three fronts—Legal Review, Engineering Review, and federal EDA Project Satisfaction.

Legal Review. Per the League of Minnesota Cities, "Whenever there is any doubt about the validity of an action or procedure, city officials should consult their city attorney." With the best interest of the City of Kennedy the number one priority, the city council voted to conduct a legal review on the "Go-Green" project to assure the City has followed all requirements of the federal grant process. And, in any case where adjustments must be made, we make them to assure the City is not legally vulnerable.

We have no legal concerns to report to our citizens at this time.

Engineering Review. From an engineering perspective, did we actually do what we told the federal government we were going to do? Does our project match the approved plans? Did we get what we paid for?

There have been four engineers involved in this project. Two on the front-end, and two after the project was completed. Portions of the reports from the two engineer's that reviewed the project once it was completed have been included herein. We have put the complete reports on our website. We have also placed on the website a Next Gen report provided to Kennedy early in the project. The actual Go-Green "Project Engineer" has failed to respond to our repeated requests for information, such as the dates of site-visits, copies of required inspections and/or any correspondence that would satisfy these requests. The federal EDA is now determining how to proceed with this engineer.

EDA Project Satisfaction. We have begun working with the federal EDA regarding project completion and project satisfaction. Clearly, the EDA isn't happy about our current situation—zero new jobs created and the sustainability of the project in jeopardy. Our biggest questions for them are, since they hold a lien on the property and given where we are now, "What are our obligations, our responsibilities, and our options?" They haven't yet given us any definitive answers to these questions.

Next Month we will provide some additionally requested financial information. We also hope to have the answers to our above questions, and will include all updates in the *Klips*. We need this information, and will provide it to you, before the vote.

Calendar

Kittson County Museum Car & Snowmobile Show

August 5, 2011

Friday, 4 p.m.

At the Museum

Picnic Supper, Car & Snowmobile Show, Parade through the Park

City Council Meeting

August 8, 2011

Monday, 7 p.m.

At the City Office

Public is encouraged to attend.

Margarita Monday

August 22, 2011

Monday, 5-8:00 p.m.

At the VFW

Margaritas & Tacos Museum Benefit

City Council Annual Budget Meeting

August 29, 2011

Monday, 7 p.m.

At the City Office

Public is encouraged to attend.

Odds and ends...

Adopt a Lot

There is still some mowing left to do. Select a lot, mow it, and call it your own.

Thank You!

Thanks to Kathryn Rynning, Kim Johnson, Diana Balstad, Doris Mortenson and Barry Langen for scrubbing walls at the school. A very ambitious undertaking that is definitely appreciated.

Thank You!

The Kennedy Community Garden thanks Lois Erickson for the generous donation of her time during spring planting. Thank you to Lois Erickson, Dwight Nelson, and Peter and Doris Mortenson for the donation of tools and supplies.

A Little More Help Please... The city is looking for about \$3,000 to pay for the youth summer jobs created in our fine city. The six jobs include mowing maintenance help and the garden girls. Any donation is greatly appreciated!