

CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION (SAC)

City Building City Council Chambers

Tuesday, April 6, 2010

Minutes of Meeting

Commissioners Present: Chairperson Marya Ryan, Jean Ascoli, Gary Cziko, Jennifer Monson, Kirstin Replogle, Stephen Wald

Commissioners Absent: John Marlin

Staff Present: Anna Hochhalter, Jeff Engstrom, Teri Andel for Kate Brickman (Recording Secretary)

Additional Present: Tony Olaivar

Call to Order, Roll Call, and Declaration of Quorum

This meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. Anna Hochhalter called the roll and a quorum was present.

Changes to the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda submitted.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The meeting minutes from March 2, 2010 were presented. Kirstin Replogle moved to approve the minutes, Gary Cziko seconded, and the motion carried by a voice vote.

Public Input

Tony Olaivar, Energy Specialist for Lanz, INC., spoke. He handed out a copy of State of Illinois Public Act 096-0033, a law passed in September of 2009 that pertains to the on-bill financing program where costs for energy efficiency improvement features are added on to homeowners utility bills.

Communications

Presentation by Staff: Monthly Report

Anna Hochhalter presented the Urbana Sustainability Monthly Progress Report. The report included information regarding projects which are in process, staff activities, and upcoming events.

Old Business

Discussion of Urbana Climate Action Plan (CAP) Process

Anna Hochhalter presented a memo concerning an update on the Urbana Climate Action Plan (CAP). Included was a discussion on the two public input and information sessions and the resulting data gathered from surveys and comment cards. Additionally, Hochhalter provided a draft schedule for the completion of the CAP and made the recommendation that Commissioners review and make suggestions directed toward that as well as the draft reduction strategies and comments submitted by the public.

Jean Ascoli noted the need for clarification of the data provided by Ameren. She stated that clarification is needed in order to come up with realistic strategies for the CAP.

After briefly reviewing responses from the public input sessions, the Commission talked about how to generate more input. After lengthy discussion it was agreed that the first effort will be to provide more in-depth details for some of the charts and graphics from the input sessions and distribute it along with surveys to get more feedback from the public. The Market at the Square and the Urbana Free Library were both mentioned as potential venues to use in this venture. Hochhalter agreed to look into registering for a table. Kirstin Replogle agreed to look into sharing a booth with the Sierra Club at the Market at the Square as part of the Cool Cities partnership. Jennifer Monson agreed to contact the Urbana Free Library.

For the May meeting, staff agreed to write up the list of ideas generated during the Commission discussion. SAC will continue to discuss these ideas and action items at the May meeting and subsequent meetings. Chairperson Ryan also asked that before the next meeting Commissioners prioritize 3 contacts from the original contact list compiled by Wald and Replogle. Commission members agreed to contact their top three by mid-May.

Wald suggested that the Climate Action Plan timeline be altered so that the Commission would vote on the CAP in September rather than August to accommodate summer travel schedules. The rest of the timeline would be moved back accordingly, with the final presentation to the Mayor and City Council to take place in November. Commissioners agreed.

Discussion of Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)

The Commission held a brief discussion regarding PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) financing programs that finance renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements to residential and commercial/industrial property. It was decided that Commissioners would do some preliminary research on their own and come up with questions to forward to Stephen Wald. Wald would then take the lead on identifying resources to address these questions, possibly through CCNet. At the May meeting, SAC members agreed to report back on the results of their preliminary research. The Commission discussed the possibility of working on a resolution regarding PACE to present to the Mayor and City Council once the Commission has thoroughly researched the program.

Announcements

The following announcements were made:

- Marya Ryan announced that staff will set up a joint meeting with SAC and the Planning Commission to discuss some of the issues that are facing our community with regards to development and sustainability. Questions about the extension of Olympian Drive were the impetus.
- Stephen Wald, concerning the Champaign County Net (CCNet) inaugural meeting of the discussion group focused on the community's water resources, Monday, April 12, 5:30pm – 7:00pm, Water Survey Research Center, 2204 Griffith Drive, Champaign.
- Kirstin Repogle, concerning Sierra Club Cool Cities Campaign hosting two workshops, one in Chicago June 12, and one in Normal October 2.
- Gary Cziko, concerning Tuesday, May 4th as Bike to Work Day.
- Jennifer Monson, concerning her absence next semester and the May meeting being her last as a Commission member. Her term expires in June and due to extensive travel obligations, she has chosen not to renew her appointment.

Anna Hochhalter announced that there are applications for City Commissions posted on the City's website and thanked Ms. Monson for her service on the Commission.

The next regularly scheduled SAC meeting, will take place Tuesday, May 4, 2010, at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

This meeting was recorded.