

**City of Lawrence
Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB)
December 11, 2013 minutes**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Boog Highberger, Michael Morley, Dale Nimz, Kathleen Nuckolls, Daniel Poull, Adam Ritchie, Ian Spomer, Scott White

MEMBERS ABSENT: Steve Vukelich

STAFF PRESENT: Tammy Bennett, Eileen Horn, Kathy Richardson

PUBLIC PRESENT: Ron Wolfe, Joyce Wolfe, Cathy Joritz, Craig Pruett, Christ Tilden, Angie Babbitt

Call Meeting to Order (Scott White Chair)

Take roll call to determine quorum of members.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion and second to approve the November 13, 2013 meeting minutes (Kathleen Nuckolls /Ian Spomer). Vote: Motion was passed unanimously.

ITEM #3 – Follow-up Item: Discussion of a SAB budget for a sustainability mini-grant program for the City of Lawrence. This idea was proposed in September, and tabled for further discussion.

The SAB discussed the structure of a potential mini-grant program to spur innovation in sustainability in Lawrence neighborhoods. SAB would like to discuss a mini-grant program with the City Manager at their January meeting, with the following elements:

- ✓ \$20,000 total fund, to provide funding for multiple worthy projects
- ✓ 50:50 match required by the applicant
- ✓ Administration and grant evaluation conducted by SAB
- ✓ Tangible community benefit of the project

The discussion highlighted the need for a list of sample projects that the SAB is envisioning funding with this money. The Lawrence On Board program was cited as the type of project that would benefit from a kickstarter amount of funding.

Next Step: Boog Highberger and Daniel Poull will develop some draft language for the grant parameters, to be presented at the January 8 SAB meeting.

ITEM #4 - New item: Native prairie potential for city parks.

Scott White presented his concern about the 50+ acres of city-owned property along the north side of the Kansas River, known as Riverfront Park. Scott presented his observation that this area could potentially be better-managed as a native prairie ecosystem, conferring ecosystem benefits, wildlife habitat, pollinator habitat, etc. Scott has networked with the Grassland Heritage Foundation, Audubon, and Monarch Watch. All are interested in collaboration. Scott will do some more research on current city policies around park maintenance, and will report back to the SAB in January.

Next Step: Item tabled for the January 8 SAB meeting, pending additional research.

ITEM #5 – New item: Discussion of SAB terms ending this month (Lehrman, Highberger, Vukelich, Nuckolls), and recruitment of new SAB members.

There will be one definite vacancy (Lehrman), one potential (Vukelich: Scott is confirming), and two SAB members that would like to be reappointed (Highberger & Nuckolls).

Next Step: SAB members will help solicit applicants to apply through the city's online advisory board application: <http://lawrenceks.org/boards/volunteer>

ITEM #6 – Follow-up items: Consider letters of support for Lawrence On Board ordinance change and Sustainability Action Network request to sign on to letter of support for extension of Burroughs Creek Trail.

Scott reminded SAB that they had approved the letter of support for Lawrence On Board at a previous meeting, so he signed the letter, supporting LOB's request to the city commission to reconsider a section of the Standard Traffic Ordinance. This will likely be an upcoming agenda item, potentially December 17th.

Then, SAB discussed the request from the Sustainability Action Network to sign on in support of the extension of the Burroughs Creek Trail. SAB members concluded that they would support the letter, as they are supportive of trail expansion generally. However, there was much discussion of encouraging all of the various trail projects to be well-coordinated to ensure that connectivity across the East and West sides of the city is prioritized.

Motion: To authorize Scott to sign a letter of support on behalf of SAB for the expansion of the Burroughs Creek Trail. (Daniel Poull/ Ian Spomer)

Vote: 8 in favor, 1 opposed.

ITEM #7 - Discussion with Commissioner Terry Riordan.

Commissioner Riordan was not able to attend.

ITEM #8 - Staff Reports:

a. County / City Sustainability. Eileen Horn, Sustainability Coordinator.

Eileen reviewed the highlights of the Sustainability Coordinator monthly report, including the adoption of the Food Policy Council by the City Commission (making it a joint city/county body), the Common Ground Program, the Green Business Leaders program, and recent recognition of the city's electric vehicle and CNG vehicle progress.

b. Solid Waste Division. Kathy Richardson, Solid Waste Manager.

Kathy reviewed the monthly report from Solid Waste and the Waste Reduction and Recycling Division. Highlights included the resounding success of the electronics recycling event (34 tons!), and the new program piloted this year to collect toys and food at curbside to donate to needy families.

ITEM #9 – Member Updates.

ITEM #10 – Public Comment.

Cathy Joritz introduced herself and spoke of her interest in being appointed to serve on the Sustainability Advisory Board.

Next regular SAB meeting:

January 8, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.