

**City of Lawrence
Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB)
January 8, 2014 minutes**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Boog Highberger, Dale Nimz, Adam Ritchie, Ian Spomer, Scott White, Steve Vukelich

MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Morley, Kathleen Nuckolls, Daniel Poull

STAFF PRESENT: Tammy Bennett, Eileen Horn, Amy Miller, Jeff Crick, Dave Corliss

PUBLIC PRESENT: Jenny O'Brien, Thad Holcombe, Michael Almon

Call Meeting to Order (Scott White Chair)

Meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion and second to approve the December 11, 2013 meeting minutes (Ian Spomer/Dale Nimz). Vote: Motion was passed unanimously.

ITEM #3 – New item: Discussion with City Manager, Dave Corliss.

City Manager Dave Corliss attended the SAB meeting. SAB members asked for advice for how SAB can most effectively work with Commissioners and staff to advance sustainability values. The City Manager's feedback included: Encouragement of SAB to support this year's rollout of curbside recycling as this will be an important sustainability undertaking for the City, and encouragement to provide consistent advocacy and a vision to the City for sustainability ideas.

SAB member Boog Highberger also proposed the idea of a SAB-facilitated mini-grant process that would provide grants to Lawrence organizations for small sustainability projects in neighborhoods. The City Manager reviewed the process for complying with the budget cycle, and encouraged SAB to submit a request to the commission by March. The City Manager encouraged SAB to keep the budget request reasonable, and not to feel compelled to spend all of the funds if there aren't enough qualified grant applications received. He reminded SAB that they could have recommending authority, but that the final authority rests with the City Commission.

Next steps on the mini-grant item: Eileen will create a rough draft of the mini-grant documents (based upon the precedent set by the Cultural Arts Commission grant program) outlining the program, the application process, etc. This will be reviewed and finalized by SAB at the February meeting.

ITEM #4 – New item: Update on Horizon 2020 review and revision process. Amy Miller, Assistant Director and Jeff Crick of Planning Dept. to lead discussion.

Amy Miller, Assistant Director of Planning, provided an update to the SAB on the upcoming Horizon 2020 review process:

- A joint City-County steering committee has been formed and will meet in February. Appointments to the steering committee are still being made.
- The goal is to update Horizon 2020, not to do an entire re-write of the plan.
- Throughout the process, there will be significant public engagement, online input forms, and opportunities for all advisory boards to offer feedback.
- Amy recommended that the SAB review the relevant chapters of H2020 (Environment, Economic Development, Parks & Rec) to find language that should be added/changed/updated/removed.
- These should be submitted during the six month issue identification phase to the steering committee. The steering committee's task will then be the prioritization of these items.
- SAB discussion included the proposal to form a sub-committee of SAB at the February meeting to take on the Horizon 2020 review process and provide suggestions for the full SAB to consider.

Next steps: At the February meeting, SAB members will form a subcommittee to review Horizon 2020.

ITEM #5 – New item: The Public Incentives Review Committee (PIRC) will be meeting Jan. 21 to consider a request for public incentives from Wicked Broadband.

Boog is the SAB representative to PIRC, and brought forward the issue of the public incentive request from Wicked Broadband. Wicked Broadband cited increased telecommuting as a benefit of increased connectivity for Lawrence residents, which supports sustainability goals. The SAB discussed this briefly and was appreciative to Boog for bringing this to their attention. However, they declined to take action on the item.

ITEM #6 – Follow-up item: Native prairie potential for city parks.

Scott updated the SAB that this item is pending a discussion with Matt Bond, City Stormwater Engineer.

Next steps: Scott and Michael will meet with Matt and provide an update at the February meeting.

ITEM #7 – Follow-up item: One open SAB position still to be filled.

Eileen provided the update that there are about a dozen candidates who have applied to serve on the SAB in the past two years. The SAB briefly discussed the skills that they would like to bring to the board – including increased diversity, planning experience, and connections to agriculture (and other under-represented fields on the current SAB).

Motion and second to authorize Scott White to send a letter to the mayor and Commission inviting them to appoint a new member to SAB, and emphasizing some of the skills SAB would like to see round out the board. **Vote:** Motion was passed unanimously.

ITEM #8 – Follow-up item: Lawrence On Board ordinance change update.

Jenny O'Brien provided the update that the City Commission referred her request to change the Standard Traffic Ordinance to staff for further review. The City Manager indicated that they wanted to "get to yes" on this item, making it easier for ride share organizations like Lawrence On Board to operate. Jenny offered to update SAB as the new Ordinance is drafted and received by the Commission.

ITEM #9 - Staff Reports:

- a. County / City Sustainability. Eileen Horn, Sustainability Coordinator.
Eileen reviewed the staff report, highlighting progress made on solar flat fees instituted by the County, wind farm siting discussions, the energy considerations in the design of the Wakarusa wastewater treatment plant, and sustainable procurement policy.
- b. Solid Waste Division Report. Kathy Richardson, Solid Waste Manager.
Kathy will email later in the week.

ITEM #10 – Member Updates.

Ian Spomer suggested discussion of a plastic bag ban as a future agenda item for the SAB to discuss and research.

ITEM #11 – Public Comment.

- Michael Almon: The Sustainability Action Network administers two of the Common Ground sites and is looking for more gardeners. Michael encouraged SAB to try to reopen the conversation about wetland water treatment during the design of the new WWTP on the Wakarusa. He also recommended that SAB might be most effective by partnering with the City on initiatives where there is already momentum in the City, and where there are City innovations that could be scaled up. Michael encouraged the SAB to clarify the definition of sustainability in Horizon 2020, and to look closely at the Industrial chapter.

- Jenny O'Brien indicated that she was interested in SAB researching and discussing the concept of a "sharing economy" and learning more about how cities can foster this type of collaboration.
- Thad Holcombe thanked the SAB for their work and the good discussion.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:15 PM

Next regular SAB meeting: February 12, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.