

**City of Lawrence
Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB)
March 12, 2014 minutes**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Boog Highberger, Dale Nimz, Scott White, Steve Vukelich, Michael Morley, Sandy Beverly, Daniel Poull, Kathleen Nuckolls

MEMBERS ABSENT: Adam Ritchie, Ian Spomer

STAFF PRESENT: Eileen Horn, Tammy Bennett

PUBLIC PRESENT: Thad Holcombe, Cathy Joritz, Thomas White

Call Meeting to Order (Scott White Chair)

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion and second to approve the February 12, 2014 meeting minutes with one edit (updating the date in the header). (Morley/Poull). Vote: Motion was passed unanimously.

ITEM #3 – OFFICER ELECTIONS.

Scott White (Chair) & Dale Nimz (Vice Chair) offered to serve another term. No other members stepped forward to express interest. Motion and second to nominate Scott as Chair and Dale to Vice Chair (Poull/Beverly). Motion passed unanimously. No Secretary position was elected, and decision was deferred to April meeting.

ITEM #4 – Follow-up item: Approve draft SAB Sustainable Neighborhoods Grant Program budget request memo.

Two minor grammatical revisions were offered to the document, and there was minimal discussion of the item. Overall, SAB members felt that it reflected the key points finalized at the February meeting. Motion and second to approve the draft budget request and send to the City Manager's Office (Morley/Beverly). Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM #5 - Follow-up item: Update from Scott on native prairie potential for city parks.

Scott provided the following updates:

- ☐ Craig Freeman from the Kansas Biological Survey walked the area last month and completed a preliminary species composition analysis. One

area of concern he noted: There is a significant stand of Johnson Grass, an invasive species.

- Last week, Scott, Michael, and Eileen met with representatives from the Parks & Recreation Department to discuss the potential restoration of Riverfront Park to native prairie grasses. This meeting helped identify the landscaping requirements of the Army Corps of Engineers with regards to the levee, and helped to clarify the city's current mowing practices.
- Next steps: Parks & Rec will respond with a \$/acre cost estimate to eliminate the invasive species and reseed and replant that area to native species. Scott will network with nonprofits (Grassland Heritage Fund, and others) to explore interest in partnering to restore the park together. Item will be revisited at April meeting.

ITEM #6 – Follow-up item: Update from Horizon 2020 review subcommittee.

Sandy Beverly and Boog Highberger reported that the subcommittee met to review Chapters 1, 9, and 10 of Horizon 2020. Several potential language changes were identified that would strengthen the sustainability elements of these chapters. The subcommittee will meet again soon to work on Chapter 16, the Environment Chapter. The SAB subcommittee will bring recommendations to the full SAB for discussion at the May meeting. Item will be revisited at May meeting.

ITEM #7- New item: Discussion of feasibility of measures to reduce plastic bag use in the City of Lawrence.

Scott will communicate with Ian to determine if this should be on the April SAB agenda when Ian can attend.

ITEM #8 - Staff Report: County / City Sustainability. Eileen Horn.

Eileen reviewed key items of her staff report, including two items that SAB may want to support related to Food Policy Council initiatives to establish a SNAP matching program at Lawrence area farmers markets and to attract grocery stores to east and north Lawrence. She also highlighted some pending grant applications for solar PV installations at Prairie Park nature center and the new County public works building, and a grant for a trail extension from Burcham to Constant Park.

Member Updates. None.

Public Comment. Thad Holcomb shared that his group: LET-US (Lawrence Ecology Team United for Sustainability) will show "Journey of the Universe" the week after Easter.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:25 PM

Next regular SAB meeting: April 9, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.