

**City of Lawrence
Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB)
August 13, 2014**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dale Nimz, Ian Spomer, Adam Ritchie, Scott White, Sandy Beverly, Daniel Poull, Boog Highberger

MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Morley, Steve Vukelich, Kathleen Nuckolls

STAFF PRESENT: Tammy Bennett, Nichole Brown

PUBLIC PRESENT: Thad Holcomb

Call Meeting to Order (Scott White, Chair)

Meeting was called to order at 5:42 PM.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion and second to approve the July 9, 2014 meeting minutes. (Nimz, Spomer).

ITEM #3- New item: Approve letter of support to the City Commission, supporting the formation of a Coordinated Bicycle & Pedestrian Advocacy/Advisory Committee. Scott White to lead discussion. (motion, take action, table item, decline to take action)

No discussion. Motion to approve and second (Spomer, Poull). Vote: Motion was passed unanimously.

ITEM #4 – Follow-up item: Presentation of ClearPath GHG emissions inventory results, and discussion of recommendations for reductions. Scott White, Dale Nimz and Nichole Brown to lead discussion. (motion, take action, table item, decline to take action)

Discussion: Eileen is working on breaking down data by department, challenge to get data from different departments to merge. Since 2002 total emissions in the city have remained flat. Per capita Lawrence is doing well with GHG emissions. The goal of reducing emissions is still difficult. Public works is looking into vehicle counts and data to determine if the transportation numbers are accurate. Water use is still fairly high and pump usage causes a lot of energy use.

- In order to accomplish some of our goals we may need an advocacy organization of sorts as advocacy isn't SAB's role. Perhaps SAB lobbies the city to advocate for initiatives that help efficiency, water conservation, etc.
- We also need resilient strategies.

- Should we focus on the things that may make a difference and if so short term or long term goals?

LIST OF STRATEGIES:

1. Incorporate the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emission into land use planning:
 - a. This discussion focused on transportation
 - b. Sidewalks fall under this
 - c. Bike paths
 - d. We need data to sit down with developers and tell them to work with these needs
 - e. Four lane road versus two lane roads like on New Hampshire road
 - f. Bus usage
 - i. Too easy to park – how to manage, increase parking rates?
 - ii. How to change car culture?
2. Strengthen energy conservation policies and building standards
 - a. Examine city standards for renovations
3. Establish outreach and education programs on emissions reduction issues
4. Water conservation
 - a. This would maybe be the biggest success
 - b. The board seemed to agree that most Lawrence residents would be on board with conserving water
 - c. Need to examine rate structure
5. Develop transportation policies and programs to consume less energy and reduce emissions
6. Maintain source reduction and waste reduction programs and initiatives
7. Exercise leadership by prioritizing efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emission in the municipal operations
8. Provide dedicated staffing and adequate funding to support climate protection and sustainability initiative
 - a. Hiring a second person full-time or half-time would really help Eileen.

DISCUSSION POINTS:

- Want to make sure data from public work's transportation matches with our numbers, Real recommendations can't happen until we have building by building breakdown, we need a more detailed GHG report. (Ian)
- Water:
 - High energy use
 - Could hit water conservation to reduce electrical use and GHG emissions
 - Strong message we can carry and stress from an efficiency standpoint.
 - Water should be a major point upfront
- Dale pointed out that we lack advocacy and we need an advocacy organization that the board can support
 - Wants an effective advocacy group
 - A community resiliency strategy
- Where is the biggest bang for our buck, what will make the most difference, and what will city council back, and what is the time frame?

- Ian mentioned battery backed police vehicles, because most emissions are idle time.
- Publicize more about the changes we make
- If the infrastructure just keeps expanding our energy needs increase. Where should the city limits end?
- Keep in mind the purview of city hall but what can we encourage cities to do
- Sidewalks
 - o Where there are no sidewalks people don't walk they drive.
 - o Increasing sidewalks would decrease amount of cars on the road
 - o There is a building code that allows compact residential/walk-able neighborhoods but nobody uses this.
 - o Maybe hold a forum with facts and let people draw their conclusions
- Property Assessed Clean Energy programs- cities use bonding authority and property taxes

FOR NEXT MEETING:

1. Next meeting everyone brings FIVE-priority actions to discuss and promote.
2. SAB members are asked to read the CPTF tracking sheet. Plan to continue discussing this on Sept. 10th

Tabled further discussion to 9/10/14

ITEM #5 - Staff Report: County / City Sustainability Coordinator, Eileen Horn.

Eileen emailed her staff report prior to the meeting. No discussion.

ITEM #6- Member Updates.

First year since 1962 that less than 50% of emerging driving age teens have applied for a license.

ITEM #7 - Public Comment.

Thad Holcomb is part of 2 advocacy groups and they'd advocate but want "winnable" items.

Adjourned 7:15 PM

Next regular SAB meeting: September 10, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. Venue: City Hall Public Works Conference Room (ground floor)