

## Meeting Highlights:

SAB received an update on the City's STAR Communities Certification process. SAB hosted Rep. Highberger who explained his proposed PACE legislation, which could help finance energy efficiency retrofits for Lawrence residents and business owners.

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## Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) MINUTES October 14, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ian Spomer, Jackie Carroll, Sharon Ashworth, Scott White, Dale Nimz, Michael Steinle

MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Morley, Daniel Poull, Adam Ritchie, Karen Lewis

STAFF PRESENT: Tammy Bennett, Eileen Horn

PUBLIC PRESENT: Evan Holt, Boog Highberger, Theresa Wilke

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- I. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.
- II. Motion and second to approve the September meeting minutes. (Steinle/Spomer). Motion approved unanimously.
- III. Follow-up Item: Discussion of economic development presentations from August and September meetings. Discussion of next steps for SAB to research and pursue.

SAB discussed speakers from past meetings. Michael noted a talk he attended by Dan Rockhill, a KU architect, and his model for affordable, sustainable housing. Discussion on developing sustainable businesses. Feeling is that last month's speakers were only focused on status quo commercial development.

Tammy noted that there was a disconnect between SAB's questions of sustainable growth and our Economic Development leaders focus on economic development.

Dale suggested that two members meet with leaders. Ian and Michael S. volunteered to work with Eileen and to touch base with Chamber on these issues, and to integrate findings into STAR Communities metrics.

Evan Holt noted some of the incentives lacking here in Kansas, which may exist elsewhere, including defunding of KBA and KTECH.

- IV. Follow-up Item: Discussion of opportunities to strengthen relationship with the Planning Commission. Discussion of next steps for SAB to research and pursue.

Eileen recapped the discussion with the Planning Commission and how there is interest in having a relationship with SAB. This could be achieved by: Creating an official liaison

position between two bodies, expanding SAB to be joint city-county, or hosting a meeting with the PC. Hesitation on PC to add more work to already overstretched volunteers and saddling future PCs with liaison. There does seem to be interest in current PC in sustainability implications.

One idea is to have one meeting a year that corresponds with PCs annual retreat and goal setting. Eileen will explore this with PC as a first step.

Possibility of expanding SAB to city/county body. Something to discuss further later.

- V. New Item: Offer feedback on Representative Highberger's proposed PACE enabling legislation:  
[http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2015\\_16/measures/documents/hb2350\\_00\\_0000.pdf](http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2015_16/measures/documents/hb2350_00_0000.pdf)

State Representative Boog Highberger discussed his PACE-enabling legislation. Property Assessed Clean Energy. Bill did not pass in 2015, but is still alive in 2016.

Fannie Mae and Freddy Mac are opposed to PACE for residential usage as it threatens their mortgages. Has been used more with commercial properties nation-wide.

Rep. Highberger's bill is based on Tennessee legislation. Introduced on last day bills could be introduced, but did not get a hearing as committee Chair was not supportive. A similar bill passed House in 2010, but failed by one vote in Senate.

Rep. Highberger is seeking feedback and partners. Topeka SAB was suggested.

Legislation would enable cities to take action, but would not require them to do anything.

Next steps: Eileen will reach out to Toni Wheeler, City Attorney to determine if SAB can request that support of PACE be included in the City Commission's legislative statement in early January. Also, individual SAB members will read and review the PACE bill and offer feedback to Boog.

- VI. New Item: Presentation of STAR Communities Index process. Discussion of roles for SAB in certification process.
- STAR = Sustainability Tools for Assessing & Rating Communities
  - 40-50 cities have been certified so far.
  - We received a grant to help pay for certification process, cost to city will be \$3,500.
  - Dec. 9,10,11 is when a group will come to review process and facilitate a charette.
  - There is an intern from KU that is working 20 hours per week on this, plus Eileen's time, plus assistance from the City Manager's Office.
  - Redding, Pennsylvania took 5 months to finish process (fastest city...our goal?)
  - Kansas City, MO , Columbia, MO, and Durango CO are all going through this at the same time.

- There is a lot of data involved in this process, including 108 outcome measures, and 408 action measures.
- Eileen will provide updates as the process progresses, and will invite SAB to the charette and advise of presentations to the City Commission.

VII. Report-out from SAB committees on progress towards annual work plan:

- a. Energy conservation committee – Will be closing the Lawrence Listens energy topic. Will bring analysis to November meeting.
- b. Water conservation committee - Mike Lawless in Utilities coming to talk to us in November about proposed new rate structure. Sharon is presenting something at "Ideate" on Oct. 24 about city water issues. It's a 5 minute presentation.
- c. Land use planning committee –nothing to report.

*(motion, take action, table item, decline to take action)*

VIII. Staff Report: City/County Sustainability Coordinator, Eileen Horn

See below.

IX. Action Items. What are the key takeaways to share with the Commission? What are key topics for next month's agenda?

X. Member Updates.

Ian – plastic bag ban. Discussion with grocery stores got some long sighs. Changes will cost redesign changes to bagging stations. Thinks to make it happen will take concerted effort and City Commission leadership.

Sharon – *Waters of Kansas* documentary will be on Channel 6 on Oct. 22, 9 pm.

XI. Public Comment.

Theresa Wilke – will bring specific plastic ban abatement to November meeting. It's a money-making proposition for retailers – a tax on plastic bags. Retailers get to charge for single use bags.

Evan Holt – new resident to Lawrence. Trying to learn about Lawrence by going to as many advisory board meetings as possible.

XII. Adjourned at 7:08 PM.

**Next regular SAB meeting:** November 11, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. Venue: City Hall Public Works Conference Room (ground floor)

**Sustainability Coordinator Report to the SAB:  
October 14, 2015**

✓ **City/County Food Policy Council Projects:**

- Urban Agriculture: Public comments have been received, and Planning staff are working on urban agriculture language in the zoning code. This will go in front of the Planning Commission for their October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Common Ground: We are looking for a community partner to apply for 815 Oak St. in North Lawrence for an innovative partnership with Habitat for Humanity.
- USDA Farmers Market Promotion Program: Douglas County was awarded \$53,650 to support the six farmers markets in Douglas County with a community-based research and technical assistance project. The goal is to support the farmers market sector through planning.
- Food System Assessment/Food Plan: As part of the Horizon 2020 revision process, the FPC was tasked with writing a Food Plan for Douglas County that would be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan. There will be many opportunities for public engagement over this fall/winter/spring as this project gets going.

✓ **Wind Energy Zoning**: The County Commission is re-engaging in the discussion of wind energy zoning. A recap and discussion will be part of their October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting agenda.

✓ **Climate In the Heartland report released** (finally!). This research project was a collaborative effort with researchers at Iowa State and the cities of Lawrence, Columbia, Iowa City, Oklahoma City, and Lincoln. The report highlights the projected climate change impacts for each city.

<b>Vinland Fair Site</b> (parking lot)
711 E 1750 Rd
<b>Stull United Methodist Church</b>
1596 E 250 Road Lecompton, KS 66050
<b>Wakarusa Valley School</b>
1104 E 1000 Rd, Lawrence, KS 66047
<b>Prairie Moon Waldorf School</b>

- ✓ **Recycling in Unincorporated Area:** County 

1853 E 1600 Rd, Lawrence, KS 66044
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 Commissioners approved a pilot project for drop-off recycling locations around the County. Two single stream bins will be located at the four locations.
- ✓ **Douglas County Fairgrounds Project:** The County is in process of hiring a construction management firm for the approximately \$6 million renovation of the fairgrounds. We are designing sustainability elements into the project.
- ✓ **Bike Share Feasibility:** The MPO office and City received funding to support a feasibility study to assess a bike share program for Lawrence and KU.
- ✓ **Solar PV at Prairie Park Nature Center:** Check out the array's output here:  
<https://monitoring.solaredge.com/solaredge-web/public?name=Prairie%20Park%20Nature%20Center#/dashboard>