

Meeting Highlights

- 1. Continued STAR discussion about how to improve score.**
- 2. Discussion of becoming an EPA Green Power Partner Community.**
- 3. Next month, SAB is hosting a goal-setting retreat to discuss priorities.**

Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) Minutes February 8, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dale Nimz, Jackie Carroll, Sharon Ashworth, Adam Ritchie, Travis Robinett, Rachel Krause, Steve Evans, Ma'KoQuah Jones

MEMBERS ABSENT: Karen Lewis

STAFF PRESENT: Eileen Horn, Kathy Richardson

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

- I. Call meeting to order
- II. Approve January minutes. Approved.
- III. Introductions
 - A. Welcome new member Ma'Ko Quah Abigail Jones
- IV. Goal Setting Retreat
 - A. Discussed venue options: Library, Fire Station, KU Center for design and research.
 - B. Wednesday March 8, potluck. Bring own plate and fork please.
 - C. Think of ideas on what to focus on.
- V. Energy Conservation committee update:
 - A. Finalized a letter to be sent to City Manager Tom Markus for LEED buildings policy. Codes department working on LEED draft report to map their codes to LEED, going to meet soon.
- VI. Water Conservation committee update:
 - A. Recommend pairing conservation rebates with smart-meter system online, to find and target heavy water users and offer them specific rebates.
 - B. Green plumbing code for new construction discussed. Could combine with LEED policy. Ask for 30% water reduction through LEED goal.

- C. Discussed fairness and effectiveness of rebates. May seem to favor those who use the most water and not need the rebate. May encourage good behavior. May get the best gains that way. Some rebates backfire, like low-flow shower heads. Rebates may start more conversations about conservation.

VII. Land-use Planning committee update:

- A. Dale went to recent presentation of natural areas inventory of Douglas County. Maps show fragmented areas. Stream-buffer ordinance could help connecting areas, encompassing recreation and trails.
 - 1. One option is negotiating with developers to preserve most of natural spaces by allowing more density.
 - 2. Some areas are located on the west side of SLT. Would like to see preservation in form of prairie, which ideally need to be in larger tracts, 20-60 acres at least.

VIII. Discussion of STAR community score, areas to improve.

- A. Opportunities: Ambient noise and light. Transportation. Redevelopment. Affordable housing.
- B. Ambient noise and light, outcome 3. City doesn't have a dark sky ordinance that is specific about protecting the night sky and migratory birds. Discussed how to balance night sky light pollution with lighting needs.
- C. Compact & Complete Communities action 6 discussed.
- D. Affordable housing discussed. See whether Affordable Housing Advisory board can help. Discussed action 2. Stephen can help with bus system as member of transportation board.
- E. Living wage discussed, part of economy and jobs rating.
- F. Discussed In-fill and Redevelopment. Action 2 and Action 4 discussed. We could advocate for education, but not do it directly. Question, what did city submit for Action 1? Eileen will check.
- G. Public spaces. Action 2 will be taken care of from master plan.
- H. Transportation. No points for Action 4, city doesn't have many programs or perks for employees to encourage green commuting.
 - 1. Discussed what bus ridership looks like. Kathy reports it has trended upward significantly since synching up with KU. The goal is to trend up with new 30 minute cycled routes.
 - 2. Question, where are we on Action 9? Eileen will look into it.
 - 3. Discussed Action 5. Discussed who would undertake education. Discussed how to coordinate all stakeholders for bike-ped needs.

IX. Food Plan Overview:

- A. Food system plan released on Jan 23, sets goal for next 10 years for food system. Based on organizational sessions. Accepting comments through Feb 21.

- B. Goals 2 and 5 most directly affect SAB, especially 5. Might be asked to come up with tactics to achieve objectives.
 - C. Food desert downtown is biggest problem facing food policy council. All are invited to Food Policy meetings, otherwise send comments to Michael.
- X. Eileen's update. see below.
- XI. No new agenda items proposed.
- XII. Member updates:
 - A. Stephen: Being on both this and transportation commission is going to take time. Needs overlap in focus to serve both. To get knowledge from SAB and take it to transportation commission would be the best benefit of being on both boards.
 - B. Rachel: Will talk to Eileen to get City to have conversations about ways to possibly divert some food waste into a pilot project that adds it to existing waste-water stress.
- XIII. No public comment.
- XIV. Motion to adjourn.

**Sustainability Coordinator Report to the SAB:
February 8, 2017**

- ✓ **STAR**
 - Next step: Meet with each department to review relevant opportunities for improvement.
 - Engage SAB in STAR implementation (workplanning retreat in March)
- ✓ **City/County Food Policy Council Projects:**
 - Common Ground: Application process will begin in February 2017.
 - The Douglas County Food System Plan: Please join us at an upcoming Food Policy Council meeting if you'd like to provide public comment on the Food Plan (February 27th). SAB will receive a draft.
- ✓ **Energy Efficiency:**
 - On January 7th, the City Commission considered final approval of the performance contract with 360 energy engineers to complete energy efficiency retrofits across the City. There are 35+ buildings and parks that will receive new lighting, new HVAC, etc.

- This will result in approximately \$500,000 in energy and maintenance savings each year to the City, and will address much deferred maintenance.

✓ **Miscellaneous:**

- Mayor Soden has committed the City of Lawrence to join the National Mayors Challenge for Conservation which kicks off in April 2017. It's a contest for residents of cities to pledge to take certain conservation actions. The City will assist with promotion of the Challenge. <http://www.mywaterpledge.com/campaign/national-campaign/>
- I met with the EPA Green Power Partnerships program to understand how the City of Lawrence and broader community may be able to participate. More here: <https://www.epa.gov/greenpower>
- Douglas County received a \$11,000 grant from KDHE from the Zika Virus Mitigation funding to collect and recycle waste tires. This will be launching in March.
- LiveWell Lawrence is hosting a community forum April 20th to highlight many of the planning processes in the community – including STAR and the Community Health Plan.
- The Public Works facility for the County received final word from USGBC: We are certified LEED Silver. A press event will be held in late January, and SAB is invited/encouraged to attend.
- The Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be presented to the City Commission at their February 14th meeting.
- The March 14th City Commission study session will focus on the Food Plan and other food systems-related work.
- The parking study consultants did their first round of public meetings in mid January. More to come on this!