
Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) Minutes

SAB Retreat

May 10, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Dale Nimz, Jackie Carroll, Sharon Ashworth, Adam Ritchie, Travis Robinett, Rachel Krause, Steve Evans, Ma'KoQuah Jones, Karen Lewis
MEMBERS ABSENT:	None
STAFF PRESENT:	Eileen Horn, Kathy Richardson, Dave Wagner, Mike Lawless
PUBLIC PRESENT:	Terresa Wilke, Deborah Swank, Heather Weed

- I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Determine quorum of members. Pressing Items?
Adam called meeting to order at 5:30 PM.
- II. APPROVE FEBRUARY AND MARCH MEETING MINUTES.
Motion to approve minutes from February & March by Michael S, second by Jackie C.
Approved by unanimous voice vote.
- III. Conversation with Utilities Dept. re: proposed water rate structure: Utilities Director Dave Wagner and Deputy Director Mike Lawless presented a proposed water rate structure for SAB feedback. The City Commission has already provided feedback to Utilities that they prefer the inclining block model of setting rates. As Mike explained, this model best meets goals of water conservation, affordability, and equity. Mike explained the details of the inclining block model to SAB. Questions and discussion included: Potential impacts on gardeners, timeline for implementation, public outreach plan, the automated meter infrastructure (AMI) project, the potential for rebates offered for conservation practices, water quality impacts, etc.
- IV. SAB administrative items:
 - a. Retreat debrief and takeaways: Overall, members were pleased with progress made at the retreat. However, SAB members noted the need to further develop the goals into action plans, and to better coordinate with staff for initiatives that both SAB and staff are pursuing.
- V. Report out from Land Use Planning Committee re: progress towards goals identified during March retreat
Dale and Travis (Land Use Committee members) presented their proposed SMART goals for the Land Use Committee. Current projects include linking a stream buffer ordinance with other green infrastructure and open space initiatives in the city, and participating in the Downtown Master Plan initiated by the City Commission's strategic planning effort.

- VI. Discussion of potential Whitewater Center at Clinton Lake
Travis shared the Jayhawk Audubon Society's letter to City and County Commissioners. SAB members agreed they brought up good points, expressing concern for the project. Travis agreed to reach out to Audubon members to learn more. Eileen shared that she would update SAB if the proposal gained any momentum at City Hall or the Courthouse, but it has not to-date.
- VII. Staff Report: City/County Sustainability Director, Eileen Horn
(see below)
- VIII. Action Items. What are the key takeaways to share with the Commission? What are key topics for next month's agenda?
- IX. Future Agenda Items

Water conservation committee will report on SMART goals developed from retreat.
- X. Member Updates

Rachel, visit to Fort Collins, institutionalized triple bottom line in sustainability administration structure. Steve has resigned from SAB to concentrate on Traffic Commission.
- XI. Public Comment

Teresa Wilke shared a draft memo outlining the rationale for a plastic bag fee for the City. SAB will discuss at their June 14th meeting.
- XII. Adjourn

Next regular SAB meeting:

June 14, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

Venue: Public Works Conference Room, City Hall

Sustainability Coordinator Report to the SAB:

May 10, 2017

✓ **STAR**

- Next steps:
- Utilize STAR Outcomes to create Performance Metrics for City Strategic Plan
- Narrow down 17 objective areas to focus on.

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

- The Douglas County Food System Plan: Is being finalized and reviewed by the Food Policy Council with a plan to bring to the governing bodies this summer.
 - Dates for presentations:
 - City of Lawrence, July 11 (Consent Agenda only) 5:45 PM
 - Douglas County, June 14th (presentation) 4:00 PM

✓ **Energy Efficiency:**

- The FCIP project has kicked off!
 - Fire Station #5 solar PV, City Hall windows, next: LED lights!
- The City issued "green bonds" as the financing mechanism May 2, and will be the first in the state to do so.
- Douglas County is considering joining the FCIP program as well.

✓ **Miscellaneous:**

- We will learn our final ranking in the National Mayors Challenge for Conservation on May 15th.
- The County, Extension, and Conservation District are working on an urban agriculture grant that would fund support for the Common Ground program, and the construction of a teaching garden and high tunnel at the DG County Fairgrounds.
- The final master plan for the Delaware Indians' land north of Lawrence will be presented to the Tribe in June.
- We are considering working with SolSmart, a new U.S. Department of Energy funded recognition program for communities that have taken steps to reduce solar costs and barriers and promote solar energy. We would first evaluate progress, and then set goals for improvement. Less work than STAR, great intern project ;)
- The City was awarded a Silver designation from the national Walk Friendly Communities. Discussions continue on the sidewalk maintenance issue.
- The Comprehensive Plan Natural Resources section has been drafted, and I have had a chance to review. I used the past PC/SAB meeting notes and your retreat notes to inform additional policies.
- The Lawrence Public Library applied for an EBSCO solar grant to install an array on the Library. Also, we are on track for LEED gold certification. Should know soon!
- The Electronics Recycling Event will take place Saturday, May 20th 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at [KU Park & Ride](#)