

Meeting Highlights for Commission:

1. SAB members will be sending the Commissioners a letter with their thoughts on the green building policy white paper recently shared with the Commission (June 6th).

2. SAB members are interested in collaborating with staff on key topics:

- A storm buffer ordinance with the stormwater division.
 - Reduction of unrecyclable “to go” containers in food retail (part of the Douglas County Food System Plan).
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Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) Minutes June 14, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dale Nimz, Jackie Carroll, Sharon Ashworth, Adam Ritchie, Travis Robinett, Karen Lewis

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ma’KoQuah Jones, Rachel Krause

STAFF PRESENT: Eileen Horn, Kathy Richardson, Tammy Bennett

PUBLIC PRESENT: Terresa Wilke

- I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Determine quorum of members.
Adam called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.
- II. APPROVE MAY MEETING MINUTES.
Motion was made to approve the May meeting minutes, approved unanimously.
- III. SAB administrative items:
 - a. New member to fill vacancy left by Steve Evans.
SAB members will use the month of June to encourage applicants to apply online. Will revisit topic at July meeting.
 - b. Discussion on strategic plan priority initiative #1 – restructuring of advisory boards.
The Board discussed potential restructuring of SAB – including adding sustainability liaison positions to existing boards, as a way to institutionalize sustainability. This was viewed favorably as a potential solution, but it may be too early for this strategy. Maybe in 5 years? For now, the Board would like to continue as-is, and explore options for future restructuring.

IV. Report out from Water Conservation Committee re: progress towards goals identified during March retreat.

The Water Conservation Committee (Sharon and Karen) presented their policies and initiatives to pursue, building off of the work of the March retreat. These were (in priority order):

- i. Pursuing LEED gold certification for new city/county buildings (achieves water conservation points)
- ii. Changing Lawrence water rate structures (see May meeting minutes)
- iii. Passing a stream buffer ordinance in partnership with city stormwater engineer.
- iv. Advocating for stormwater infrastructure improvements, especially green infrastructure.
- v. Researching/advocating for adoption of the Green Plumbing Code.

Board members discussed these and provided feedback, and helped the committee work towards a timeline. In July, SAB members will research model stream buffer ordinances in other communities to begin to build shared knowledge about the topic. Matt Bond, city stormwater engineer, will be invited to provide a progress update in August or September.

V. Reports from other committees:

- a. Land Use Committee: Recap of 5/31/17 meeting with Matt Bond, Stormwater Engineer re: stream buffer ordinance

Matt Bond is planning to work on a draft stream buffer ordinance in fall of 2017, with potential public release in spring 2018. SAB will be invited to review and collaborate.

- b. Energy Conservation Committee: 6/6/17 City Managers Report Item: White Paper on Sustainable Construction and Energy Conservation

The committee was supportive of the white paper submitted by Planning & Development Services to the City Commission on June 6th, but is planning to draft a letter to the Commission asking for a few items to be strengthened:

- Commitment to LEED Gold
- Requirement for actual LEED certification, not architects' letter signing off
- Requirement of LEED Regional Priority Credits around energy and water

SAB members voted unanimously to empower the energy conservation committee to write a letter to the Mayor, Commissioners, and City Manager emphasizing these three points.

- VI. Discussion of citizen recommendation for waste reduction (from T. Wilke, presented at April SAB meeting).

Teresa Wilke presented her idea for a fee for plastic bag use in Lawrence. SAB members discussed it at length, but ultimately decided that this project didn't fit within the scope of their newly-adopted retreat priorities around land use, water, and energy. Teresa will continue her citizen advocacy on this topic, and update SAB in the future.

- VII. Discussion of food container waste reduction ideas (led by M. Steinle)

Michael Steinle, SAB member and Food Policy Council liaison, updated SAB about the food waste recommendations coming up in the soon-to-be-adopted Douglas County Food System Plan. Michael is interested in partnering with the City to do outreach and education to food retail businesses, encouraging them to use to-go containers that can be recycled in the city's single stream recycling (i.e. not Styrofoam). Kathy Richardson, solid waste division manager, agreed to assist in this effort.

- VIII. Staff Report: City/County Sustainability Director, 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. Future Agenda Items
XI. Member Updates
XII. Public Comment
XIII. Adjourn

Next regular SAB meeting:

July 12, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

Venue: Public Works Conference Room, City Hall

Sustainability Coordinator Report to the SAB:

June 14, 2017

✓ **STAR**

- Next steps:
- Utilize STAR Outcomes to create Performance Metrics for City Strategic Plan.
- Narrow down 17 objective areas to focus on.
- In June, we will be completing the STAR Indicators Project, a 21 metric analysis that we can do annually with national datasets.

✓ **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 is the first in the state to do so.
- Douglas County is considering joining the FCIP program as well.
- Citizens have been interested in recent reports of environmental and health impacts of LED lights, therefore we've created an LED lighting FAQ. I will forward to SAB so you can help answer questions about this initiative.

✓ **Miscellaneous:**

- 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.
- A bus stop on Haskell b/t 11th and 12th is our newest Common Ground site. The bus stop community garden will include veggies for snacking while Transit riders wait.
- Mayor Soden and County Commission Chair Mike Gaughan both signed the "We are Still In" campaign – signaling their support of the Paris Climate Agreement.
- The Parking study was presented to the Commission on June 6th.
- The LDC Health Department has been awarded funding from the Kansas Health Foundation to work on health equity issues in Lawrence and Douglas County.
- On June 6th, the City Commission voted to preserve a majestic bur oak tree and add open parkland to Brook Creek Park.