



City of Lawrence

SUSTAINABILITY
ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Highlights

SAB will send a letter of support for initiating a stream buffer ordinance.
Public discussion updating plastic committee, with representatives from the business community providing some feedback.

MINUTES

August 8, 2018 – 5:30 pm

Meeting Location: Parks and Recreation Administration Building in South Park, 1141 Massachusetts St, Lawrence, KS 66044

Members Present: Jackie Carroll, Ma'Ko Quah Jones, Dale Nimz, Adam Richie, Travis Robinett, Michael Steinle

Members Not Present: Sharon Ashworth, Rachel Krause, Karen Lewis

Staff Present: Tammy Bennet, Matt Bond, Jasmin Moore, Kathy Richardson,

Public present: About six members of the public were present.

- I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 5:30 p.m.
- II. APPROVE JULY MEETING MINUTES. Carrol motions to approve. Richie seconded. Motion passes.
- III. Discussion: Development of Stream Buffer Ordinance – Matt Bond, Stormwater Engineer
 - a. Higher level overview of ordinance: It will be stream ordered (smallest to largest), and include buffer zones defining what activities can take place in those zones. Will change in length and width based on stream order and floodplain. Would apply to new development and redevelopment. Enforcement would be by fine through city court, per day for each offense.
 - b. Similar to this ordinance, a separate Land-Disturbance permit is also being worked on by Matt, so all site disturbances can be tracked better, and erosion and sediment pollution can be better controlled.
 - c. Staff will be asking the City Commission on August 21 to initiate a text amendment process. This would allow staff to explore approaches to stream buffer protection. There will be multiple opportunities for public comment, and the proposed language will require approval by the Planning Commission and the City Commission. It may be helpful for the City Commission to see this is a priority of the SAB, by issuing a letter of support for the agenda item on August 21.

- d. Motion by Nimz that the SAB draft a letter of support to City Commission, including reference to the briefing by Matt Bond, SAB supports the idea of a stream buffer ordinance, and that this is a SAB priority. Second by Steinle. Motion passed.
- e. Motion by Robinett that Robinett author the letter. Second by Nimz. Motion passed.

IV. Report from Energy Committee- 90/90 tool

- a. Jackie reviewed the work of Energy Committee
- b. Usefulness of the tool: helpful to identify immediate steps. Some felt out of order or redundant. Using the table was hard because they were unsure of level of difficulty.
- c. Meeting time: Saturday 10 a.m. Will pick the particular Saturday.

V. Update on Single-Use Plastic Committee

- a. Organizational meeting last week, with SAB and staff. Main goal was organization. Rachel's class has volunteered to support research. First steps, identify types of plastic to address, use and ease of recycling, what are not able to be single-stream recycled, what are the cost/benefits of recycling single-use plastic, and ways to find cost-neutral solutions.
- b. Committee would like to receive continual targeted feedback from key stakeholders from: Public, KU Biological survey, KU Recycles, the disabled community, the international community, Chamber of Commerce, local restaurant owner, the Lawrence Douglas-County Housing authority, and the local high schools. Some of these stakeholders have been identified, some have not.
- c. After e-mail address was published in newspaper, Michael received several hundred e-mails. Some were offering support and to collaborate, including a member of the Topeka Sustainability Board.

VI. Public Comment

Comments regarding plastic bags continued from residents. Recommended actions from the public included a ban on plastic bags.

- a. John McCormick - Representing the Retail Grocers Association. Represent most all the super markets in KS, sans Dillons. We're not opposed to reducing litter. Many people bring bags into home and don't throw them away. Local communities who pass these laws make ordinances that have differences, and RGA wanted to give information on how this can be done with the bigger picture in mind. John presented board members with a six-page report on consequences and alternatives to an outright ban. Also gave information to Adam.
- b. Comment on supporting the disabled community through this effort, perhaps allowing stores to sell as a medical item, or allowing at restaurants for disabled customers. Also commented on how magazines are also a plastic problem.
- c. Comment about interest in joining plastic committee. Adam says he will reach out after this meeting.
- d. Karen Peigelmeyers - Representing Sierra Club. Was here for an update, would like to join plastic committee. The time is right for this to happen.

- e. Comments from KU Audubon society - Suggested at last meeting to collaborate more with SAB. On stream buffer ordinance, would like it to be county wide. Would be willing to write a letter to the county commission in support of them looking at such an ordinance.

Mitch DePriest - Kansas Beverage Association. Appreciates the mindfulness of the board for taking careful consideration of this issue. No other comments at this time.

VII. **Update on Dry Sky Ordinance**

Travis will send letter supporting a Dark Sky tonight, and we can review next meeting.

VIII. **SAB administrative items.**

- a. Jessica Lee is a newly appointed member. Should be at next meeting.
- b. Bylaws update - SAB needs to align bylaws with City's efforts to streamline the boards. Request that a couple people work with Jasmin on By-Laws revisions during the next couple of months. Perhaps a chance to more clearly define the sub-committees, and how they could include other members of the public. If anyone is interested, let Jasmin know.
- c. Michael recommends defining a difference between official sub committees and the ad-hocs.

IX. **Staff Report**

- a. Kathy - Pilot program is going well, those who signed up for it love it. Carts get filled every day, and picked up Monday-Saturday. City did a weight audit, and will be able to provide numbers soon. Still trying to sign up downtown businesses.
- b. **The Sustainability Office is going through a strategic planning process and aligning work with STAR framework.**
- c. **Staff is working on updating the Greenhouse Gas inventory for the City of Lawrence operations and the community. Findings will be shared this fall.**
- d. **The City of Lawrence Common Ground program is a community gardening and urban agriculture program created by the City of Lawrence in 2012. The City leases vacant or under-utilized properties to citizens for free, with one rule – the sites must be used to grow food. SAB members are invited to tour one or more of the garden sites this fall.**
- e. **Staff is working with HAMM to plan an upcoming tour of recycling facilities and methane capture at the landfill.**
- f. **Staff is doing an internal staff review of the draft stream buffer ordinance. Matt Bond, Stormwater Engineer, will attend the August 8 SAB meeting to share progress.**

X. **Action Items.**

- a. **Takeaway for the City Commission: SAB added a possible single-use plastics ordinance to SAB's list of priorities and created a committee with Michael Steinle as chair.**
- b. **Key topics for next month's agenda: Energy committee will report, discuss Dark Sky Ordinance, and discuss bylaws.**

XI.

XII. Future Agenda Items

- a. Stream buffer ordinance update – August
- b. 90/90 report from Energy- August
- c. 90/90 report from Water committee
- d. Collaboration opportunities with Transportation Commission
- e. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory update
- f. 2019 SAB leadership
- g. Bylaw review
 - i. Consider membership of county residents

XIII. Member Updates

- a. Karen going to South America and will not be at the August meeting.

XIV. Adjourn: 7:26 p.m.

Next regular SAB meeting:

August 8, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

Venue: Parks and Recreation Administration Building in South Park, 1141
Massachusetts St, Lawrence, KS 66044