

CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION (SAC)
City Building Executive Conference Room
Tuesday, April 6, 2009
Minutes of Meeting

Commissioners Present: Marya Ryan, Stephen Wald, John Marlin, Kirstin Replogle, Jennifer Monson, Gary Cziko, Amy Ando

Staff Present: Rod Fletcher, Kate Brickman (Recording Secretary)

Staff Absent: Anna Hochhalter

Additional Present: Jack Waaler, City of Urbana Legal Counsel

Call to Order

This meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes from March 3, 2008 were distributed. A motion to approve was made by Kirstin Replogle and seconded by John Marlin. It was noted that Dr. Wuebbles name was misspelled and Marya Ryan suggested deleting the last sentence under creating a vision statement, since it was redundant. The changes were accepted by Kirstin Replogle and seconded by Steve Wald and the minutes were approved with changes.

Public Input and Communications

There was no public input. However, Rod Fletcher did announce that the City would be receiving \$185,200 in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Funds (stimulus funds). He stated that staff would be looking at possible plans or activities to develop for use of the funds. He also informed the Commission that in addition to the block grants, there were a number of other categories for funding opportunities such as diesel emission reduction grants, weatherization grants and others. There would also be competitive grant opportunities as well.

A discussion of the weatherization program followed. Fletcher stated that the CCRPC already administers such a program for low income households, and that the stimulus funds would greatly enhance the current program by raising the poverty level income eligibility requirements and the individual amounts available. The Commission requested additional information and Fletcher will provide for the next meeting.

Rod Fletcher also announced that he was participating in a sustainability advisory group at the University of Illinois and would keep the Commission updated.

Open Meetings Act

Urbana City Legal Counsel Jack Waaler was in attendance and provided the Commission with further information and suggestions concerning the Open Meetings Act. Mr. Waaler stressed the importance of differentiating between the act of exchanging views and the act of making a decision, specifically trying to mask a decision outside of the public view. He then fielded various questions from Commission members.

Public Education and Outreach

Education sub-committee member Gary Cziko reported on research that he has been conducting research concerning changing human behavior in relation to sustainable practices. In particular he mentioned information developed by Doug McKenzie-Mohr on fostering sustainable behavior. This was followed by a lengthy general discussion of a wide array of topics including possibly developing a “clearinghouse” of information for energy audits, lead abatement, weatherization, mercury – CFL’s, etc.; weatherization “barn raising”; identifying possible barriers; provide details and possible assistance of how to get started; encouraging small commitments and build into larger commitments to eventually become norms. It suggested that UPTV be utilized as a medium whenever possible. And it was suggested that a public relations firm or possibly college communications students be enlisted to develop informational materials. In summary, it was concluded that education/outreach efforts would be a process and should pursue actual behavioral changes, not just present information, and emphasize positive outcomes and positive focus.

Rod Fletcher provided sustainability-related handouts to the Commission from the City of Urbana’s Environmental Division that are currently being distributed to residents.

Staff Report

Rod Fletcher reported that a new version of the ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability Clean Air & Climate Protection (CACCP) software was about to be released. Because of this circumstance, the decision to postpone energy consumption data entry, to establish greenhouse gas emissions, has been made. However, when the new software becomes available, the data will be inputted. He also reported that the internal City consumption data, will also be inputted, but additional factors need to be reviewed such as population and development projections, and this data will be forthcoming as well.

Framework Review

A memo created by Anna Hochhalter providing information on various sustainability frameworks was distributed to the Commission. Members were asked to review the document. A discussion followed as to the importance of developing our specific framework toward particular targeted areas or strategies as they are developed and that such guides should be operationally reasonable and efficient.

Vision Statement

Chairperson Marya Ryan made the decision to postpone review of submitted vision statements until the next meeting.

Next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting will be held at 7 P.M. Tuesday, May 5, 2009 in the City of Urbana Council Chambers.

Amy Ando made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Kirstin Replogle seconded.

There being no further business to suggest the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

This meeting was recorded.