

CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION (SAC)

City Building Council Chambers

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Minutes of Meeting

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

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

Call to Order

This meeting was called to order at 7:01 P.M.

Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes from April 7, 2009 were distributed. It was noted that Kirstin Replogle's name was misspelled twice in the minutes and needed to be corrected. Marya Ryan also suggested adding two pieces of information; one, that Rod Fletcher is participating in sustainability related advisory group at the University of Illinois, and two, that Rod Fletcher presented new brochures from the Environmental Division at Urbana Public Works. The changes were accepted by Amy Ando and seconded by Kirstin Replogle and the minutes were approved with changes.

Public Input and Communications

Tony Olaivar gave a short presentation on his company, Green Light Renovations. The company is made up of a team of construction experts dedicated to improving the energy efficiency of homes and office buildings. Mr. Olaivar discussed green roof systems, HERS audits, and other services that the company offers and fielded questions from Commission members.

Marya Ryan read an email sent by Kathleen Robbins concerning efforts made on the part of Sustainable Champaign County to coordinate a network of public agencies to jointly fund \$40,000 for a climate change analysis for the county as well as a land use analysis (LEAM). Gary Cziko inquired whether Rantoul and some of the other communities would be involved. Rod Fletcher's initial reaction is that the resulting analysis for Champaign County would not be significantly different from the information presented in the City of Chicago's Climate Action Plan, and therefore questioned the necessity. He said that he would consult with Libby Tyler on the value of a LEAM analysis. Additionally, Fletcher stated that the convergence of a task force was not foreseeable at this time. Amy Ando noted that the information would be more useful when the Commission reaches the point of discussing adaptation. Ryan noted that further information on the added value of having Champaign County-specific studies would be desirable. If added value is shown, a contribution to the studies may be an appropriate use of sustainability funds from the City.

Urbana Councilperson Charlie Smyth talked about the Council's four-year goals and that Sustainability is at the top of the list. Additionally, Smyth, Chairperson Ryan and Anna Hochhalter will be presenting information gathered from their trip to the National League of Cities Conference.

Staff Report

➤ Emissions Inventory Status

Rod Fletcher provided the Commission with preliminary information on Urbana's emissions inventory but still needed additional information from Ameren IP; whether well energy consumption data from Illinois American Water is included in their original data, and Urbana Champaign Sanitary District data and its apportionment here in Urbana.

Fletcher provided introductory graphics relaying information on specific air pollutants and emissions broken down by sector, and announced that this information and some projections should be finalized by June. A discussion continued regarding Urbana's per capita data compared to the national average and the issue of whether or not to include information from the University of Illinois in the analysis.

➤ Weatherization Program Update

A flyer from the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (RPC) was distributed that detailed the low income weatherization assistance program funded by stimulus monies. The RPC anticipates that 450 homes will take part in the program with an average retrofit being \$4700.00.

➤ Climate Action Plan

Fletcher handed out the City of Chicago and City of Evanston Climate Action Plans and asked the Commission to familiarize themselves with these the documents. The next meeting, June 2, members will be looking at various strategies and targets for Urbana's Climate Action Plan.

A discussion continued addressing costs and the opportunity to take a 'live' look at the ICLEI software. Rod Fletcher replied that he would look into a presentation and reminded the Commission to remain realistic on stating the goals needed to be achieved and on what is expected to occur versus the cost of implementing strategies.

➤ Framework

Chairperson Ryan led a discussion addressing the need to think about moving forward and developing an action plan and letting a framework grow out of that. Kirstin Replogle agreed and added that starting the process would give a better idea as to what was required of the Commission and the community. Stephen Wald suggested that objections were bound to be raised when crossing the threshold of saving money to spending money. A discussion continued with the mention of the different roles City government would have to play, the possible layout of a great deal of funding for some changes, creating demand that is government initiated, and the need to reflect local community interests

Use of Transition Champaign County Website

Gary Cziko offered the idea of using the Transition Champaign County website as a means for Commissioners to communicate and share resources with each other and as a potential for public outreach. A discussion ensued between the members with an agreement to look towards a neutral setting with which to do this very thing. Kirstin Replogle and Gary Cziko volunteered to look into various web capabilities and mock something up to present and show to the City's Legal Division for review.

Education Sub-Committee

Marya Ryan suggested formally putting the work of the sub-committee on hold with Gary Cziko and Kirstin Replogle to keep meeting as individual Commission members and when needed come to the Commission when they are ready to discuss ideas that would be deliberated on.

John Marlin made a motion to dissolve the subcommittee. And Amy Ando seconded the motion. The motion carried by a voice vote.

Vision Statement

The Commissioners discussed several vision statements that were submitted by members. The following contains some thought on what that statement should include and will be completed at the June 2 meeting:

The City of Urbana is committed to meeting the needs of today's residents without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The City of Urbana, therefore works toward:

- 1. Supporting a stable, diverse and equitable economy;*
- 2. Increasing resilience and "a word comparable to security" with respect to food, water, energy and other human needs; and*
- 3. Reducing negative impacts in local ecosystems...protect and restore...promoting healthy ecosystems...*

Next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting will be held at 7 P.M. Tuesday, June 2, 2009 in the City of Urbana Council Chambers.

Jennifer Monson announced that she would be absent for most of the summer and the use of a dedicated phone card was suggested for her to use.

John Marlin made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Amy Ando seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

There being no further business to suggest the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 P.M.

This meeting was recorded.