

**CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION (SAC)
City Building Council Chambers
Saturday, August 22, 2009
Minutes of Special Meeting**

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

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

Additional Present: Mayor Laurel Prussing, Mike Monson, Anthony Santarelli, John Althausen

Call to Order

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 9:02 A.M.

The meeting began with a showing of the video “The Story of Stuff”. A brief discussion followed in which Chairperson Ryan read aloud an excerpt from the founding ordinance establishing the Urbana Sustainability Advisory Commission, as well as the vision statement created by the Commission to reaffirm their intentions. Mayor Prussing summed up by saying that the intent of establishing the Commission was to set specific sustainability goals that were achievable.

Discussion of Potential Recommendations to the City Council for its 2009 Goal-Setting Session

The morning session was spent brainstorming for items to recommend to Council for their 2009 goal setting. Several criteria emerged during the discussion including the following:

- a set of policies to guide sustainability efforts;
- the conservation of water and energy;
- realistic timeframes;
- the use of saved money to be directly put back into further implementations;
- what the city and Commission express to the public about such goals;
- measurements based on energy and water usage of the City both now and in the future;
- making significant impacts with renewable energy and macro non-fossil fuel facilities; and
- dynamic steps that are highly visible.

Stephen Wald then added that the Commission should be thinking about sustainability at the municipal level, specifically the sphere of action that the City can control, and suggested that the

Commission and Council innovatively make use of the in-place municipal structure. John Marlin then recommended that an action list be prepared for Council with low to high impact suggestions, as well as a few paradigm shift ideas that are more detailed.

There was a brief break for lunch, after which brainstorming was completed and a set of goals was agreed upon.

The following items were determined to be the most significant to be submitted to Council as recommendations to include in their upcoming goal setting session, but the entire list will be forwarded as well. The full list appears at the end of these minutes. It was agreed that staff wordsmith the recommendations for approval at the SAC's September 1, 2009 meeting.

1. Revolving Loan Program/Financing for Retrofits (efficiency upgrades)
2. Develop and Implement a Formal Energy Policy
3. Identification and Implementation and Conservation of Alternative Water Sources – Formal Water Policy
4. Construction Requirements – Analysis of Codes, Identification of Retrofits/Updates, and Removal of Impediments to Sustainability
5. Dedicated Staff and Citywide Green Team

The SAC requested that staff research and report back on the status of items included in the Sustainable Urbana report.

Status and Discussion of Climate Action Plan (CAP) Process

Rod Fletcher gave an update on the data gathering process for the Climate Action Plan and provided a few slides to indicate emissions and their source within the community. Fletcher is currently trying to secure data from Illinois American Water Company to complete a consumption analysis. He also announced that ICLEI has released a beta version on the CAP planning assistant that contains a library with over one hundred applications of individual strategies for implementation that could be applied to see what potential emissions reductions could be made. Fletcher indicated that a draft report should be ready by the end of the year.

It was suggested that the Commission start thinking about whether or not to recommend a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions for each of the next 4 decades to reach an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Rod Fletcher reported that a group composed of various Urbana staff, interested people and governmental entities have met to discuss the possibility of creating a unified application for American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) grants.

Additionally, Rod provided a recap of the current grant money being received and where that money would be going; LED bulb replacement in the City building complex, replacement of the Community Development roof, and funding to cover the cost of Ameren's Act on Energy \$25 efficiency audits for 1/3 of Urbana's single through four-plex residential units.

Marya Ryan briefly read aloud the main points of the two-track planning outline that she had created for this meeting; specifically targeting the tasks that lay ahead for the Commission members. The Commission discussed and agreed that over the next two to three months the public needs to be engaged and included in defining particular needs, concerns and strategies to be included in the CAP. Additionally, the topic of grant monies and foundation funding was discussed. Commission members were then asked to look into various strategies for achieving these ends.

The following items were proposed to be included in the September 1st meeting Agenda items:

- LEAM and the Climate Change Study proposed by Robbins
- Fall timeframe for soliciting public input

Next Regular Meeting Date

The next meeting will take place September 1, 2009, at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 P.M.

SAC Brainstorming Session

August 22, 2009

Listing of potential policies, goals, or programs

1. Demonstration neighborhoods with various foci
2. Program with [historic] buildings for no AC
3. Program for greater efficiency in AC units
4. Financing models
5. Commercial [all] property efficiency inventory/database
6. Dedicated staff
7. Revolving loan program[financing model] for retrofits/efficiency upgrades (education on efficiency – AC units)
8. Look at length of life of products – production of products [cradle to cradle]
9. Legislation and purchasing requirements – incentives for reducing consumption
10. LEED incentives
11. Local climate change data and land use projections
12. Demonstration of permeable pavement
13. Rain gardens/bioswales
14. Bike rack requirements
15. Municipal energy [electricity]
16. Zero Waste
17. Food waste program – compost- supply and demand study
18. Focus on quality of life improvements
19. Green resource directory
20. Mayor/SAC awards
21. Update/check off staff sustainability report opportunities
22. Formal energy policy – develop/implement strategies [living document]
23. Construction materials recycling
24. Expand walkable infrastructure in downtown – make diverse commercial on Main Street-attractions
25. Invest in bike/ped infrastructure – and educate
26. Promote micro communities in Urbana – walkability score
27. Ped/bike bridge over I-74
28. Multiple bike lockers in commercial areas
29. Subdivision agreements – covenants – assure they allow sustainable lifestyles
30. Community gardens in neighborhoods
31. Requirements for soil return in subdivisions for developers

32. Public education for lawn care – water conservation/fertilization
33. Pollinator habitats – bees
34. Use UPTV and develop 10-20 minute segments on sustainability habits
35. Get community certifications – for community wildlife habitats
36. Implement training for staff – triple bottom line
37. City wide green team
38. Intergovernmental cooperation
39. Develop a formal water policy – identify and implement alternative sources/conservation
40. Public education and information
41. Support SAC in completion of CAP
42. Benefits of trees
43. Program to motivate and commit people to goals – make directory and reports (motivational tool)
44. Neighborhood Sustainability District
45. Promote existing programs - MTD bus passes were \$230/yr now \$60/yr, older than 60 ride free
46. New construction requirements – analysis of codes, provide allowances, incentivize
47. Subdivision connections – street layouts [grid street layouts]