

CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION (SAC)

City Building Council Chambers

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Minutes of Meeting

Commissioners Present: Chairperson Marya Ryan, Stephen Wald, John Marlin, Gary Cziko, Jean Ascoli, Jennifer Monson

Commissioners Absent: Kirstin Replogle (excused)

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

Additional Present: Anthony Santarelli (Illinois Green Business Association), Charlie Smyth (Urbana City Councilperson)

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Kate Brickman called the roll and a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes from September 1, 2009 were presented. Marya Ryan presented amendments to the minutes prepared by Kate Brickman. Gary Cziko moved to approve the amended minutes, John Marlin seconded, and the motion carried by a voice vote.

Public Input and Communications

It was agreed to strike agenda item number VIII *Update on Sustainable Urbana Google Group* from the October agenda and move it to the November meeting agenda.

Introduction of New Commission Member, Jean Ascoli

Marya Ryan introduced Jean Ascoli as the newest Commission member.

September 30 Water Forum

Chairperson Ryan, Kirstin Replogle and Gary Cziko attended the Mahomet Aquifer Consortium forum that presented the Consortium's plan for managing the Aquifer/water

supplies. The Commission will further discuss this topic as an agenda item at the November meeting. Staff will contact the Commission in a few weeks to see if a presentation from this forum is wanted.

Staff Report

Rod Fletcher reported that data was finally received from Illinois American Water Company concerning citywide consumption in Urbana. Fletcher provided a chart that showed consumption patterns for the five years between 2004 and 2008 broken down by residential customer usage. This information should complete the baseline data needed to make greenhouse gas emissions calculations for all sectors which will be presented at the November meeting for review and discussion.

Fletcher also provided an overview and status update of the grant opportunities that have been made available for the City in both Federal allocations and State opportunities.

Public Input Planning for Climate Action Plan

Anna Hochhalter presented a memo concerning engaging the general public to introduce the Commission and its role, efforts to date, and future goals for development of the Climate Action Plan. The suggestion was made to send a letter and a survey to determine initial assessment of the public's knowledge of sustainability issues in general.

Steven Wald presented a memo prepared by himself and Kirstin Replogle detailing their recommendations after discussing the use of public involvement in the Commissions planning processes. The memo also included a compiled list of potential contact groups within the community. The conclusion reached was that the public should be presented with something concrete to react to rather than orchestrate meetings to solicit information to create an initial plan.

After Commission members discussed the possibilities of different interaction strategies with and among the public, Chairperson Ryan summarized the following course of action:

- Within the next month Commission members make some informal inquiries and begin spreading the word to contacts that more formal assemblies are planned for the coming months;
- Commission members send suggestions of contacts and groups to expand the list of constituencies prepared by Wald and Replogle;
- Staff develops background information on SAC and informational handouts and drafts a list of upcoming events;
- Once events are identified, Commission members will establish more formal contacts and request a presence at events; at the events, Commission members will distribute informational handouts and talk about SAC's role and plans for development of a climate change action plan;

- Commission look at materials in November and plans for outside community interaction in the following months, including forums for feedback on a draft climate change action plan.

Overarching Sustainability Policy

A draft of the Urbana City Council Goal-Setting Session list of goals, specifically the environmental sustainability section, was distributed. The list of goals included the SAC vision statement and recommendations forwarded by the Commission in September.

In addition, Gary Cziko submitted a Sustainable City Principles Policy document based on a similar document created by the City of Portland.

The Commission discussed the relationship between the two documents and whether both were needed.

Councilperson Charlie Smyth was in attendance to provide insight into the Council's goal-setting process and proposed that these goals provide a general framework that the Climate Action Plan will be developed within.

Fletcher then clarified that the Climate Action Plan is used specifically to identify baseline inventories of greenhouse gasses and the strategies to reduce them.

The Commission agreed to continue plans to develop the CAP by May. The CAP will focus on greenhouse gas reduction and will become the first piece of a more broadly based sustainability plan. The broader plan will capture the spectrum of Council sustainability goals. SAC will continue to develop a set of overarching sustainability principles in the next few months. Those principles will guide the development of future components of the broader-based sustainability plan. The principles will be submitted to Council as guides to City decision-making until such time as a full sustainability plan is developed.

Commission members will send final feedback on the proposed Council goals to Chairperson Ryan by October 19, 2009. Ryan will forward feedback to Mike Monson to take to the Council for its consideration.

Next Meeting Date

The next regularly scheduled SAC meeting will take place Tuesday, November 3, 2009, at 7 P.M. in the City Council Chambers.

Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 P.M.

This meeting was recorded.