

CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION (SAC)

City Building Council Chambers

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Minutes of Meeting

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

Commissioners Absent:

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

Additional Present: Tony Olivair (Green Light Limited)

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 October 6, 2009 were presented. Anna Hochhalter noted that the Urbana Green Business Association should be listed as the Illinois Green Business Association. Kirstin Replogle moved to approve the minutes with corrections, Jennifer Monson seconded, and the motion carried by a voice vote.

Public Input and Communications

Input from Members of the Public

Tony Olivair from Green Light Limited introduced himself to the Commission and gave a status report on what his company is currently involved with.

GreenTown Symposium Presentation

Commissioner Stephen Wald attended the GreenTown: The Future of Community conference on creating sustainable communities that was held in Chicago in October. Wald gave a brief presentation on some of the highlights covered at the conference and mentioned aspects of the City of Santa Monica's sustainability efforts.

Staff Report

Rod Fletcher presented an initial draft of the greenhouse gasses emissions inventory that will be contained within the Climate Action Plan. Fletcher proceeded to provide a short narrative explaining how data was gathered, input and processed, and organized to create the emissions inventory. Fletcher stressed that although this information is in draft form, the results should be viewed as final and proposed setting a short term emissions reduction goal and target year.

The Commission asked questions and discussed the information provided by Fletcher. After some debate and clarification, Gary Cziko made a motion to recommend a greenhouse gasses emissions reduction goal of 25% by 2020. Kirstin seconded, and the motion carried by a voice vote.

Anna Hochhalter reported that the University of Illinois Sustainability Advisory Committee was in the process of completing its Climate Action Plan, modifying its curriculum, and updating its public outreach strategies. Hochhalter suggested that there may be room for SAC to work with this committee in the future.

Old Business

Public Input Planning for Climate Action Plan

Stephen Wald recommended delaying the course of action summarized by Marya Ryan at the October meeting concerning the different interaction strategies with and among the public (please refer to approved meeting minutes for October). The agenda item will be revisited at the December meeting.

Anna Hochhalter informed the Commission of a draft publication that she has been working on that contains overview material about SAC. Hochhalter will be sending the draft forward for review by Commission members. The target is to finalize the content and decide on a brochure or handout format by the December meeting.

Overarching Sustainability Policy

Gary Cziko presented an updated version of the draft Sustainable City Principles Policy document that he originally submitted to the Commission in October. Cziko stated that the purpose of the document was to provide a way to have the City commit itself to sustainability in projects and day to day operations. A discussion then commenced that examined what role the document would play.

Fletcher suggested that it may be worthwhile to wait for the Council to finish their goal-setting to see how those goals would relate to what is being proposed in the Policy document. Chairperson Ryan agreed and Fletcher stated that he would request the most current draft of the Council goals to share with the Commission.

Sustainable Urbana Google Group

Commissioner Gary Cziko reported that he has been posting information on the site and that there is potential for the site to be used as a larger outreach tool. Anna Hochhalter said that staff could also maintain a Facebook page for SAC. SAC may want to consider a Twitter feed as well.

New Business

Champaign Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study (CUUATS) Long-Range Transportation Plan

Marya Ryan relayed to the Commission that the public comment period for the CUUAT draft Long-Range Transportation Plan closes November 25th. Ryan asked that the Commission as a group help formulate comments that could be submitted to CUUATS. Rod Fletcher stated that he has communicated with CUUATS about emissions data and learned that it was not feasible to include it in the plan. There may be opportunities to develop that information for future iterations of the plan.

After some discussion a motion was made by Stephen Wald, and seconded by Jean Ascoli, to authorize Marya Ryan and Rod Fletcher to craft a formal letter that encourages CUUATS to add the following to their Long-Range Transportation Plan:

- Discourage the ring road and focus on solutions to congestion that go through the urban core;
- double the goal numbers for bus and bicycle ridership;
- return of topsoil to its former location (on top); and
- inclusion of more specifics on the implementation of greenspace and natural plantings.

All Commission members were in agreement with these points and the motion carried by a voice vote. Additionally, the Commission agreed to invite a member from CUUATS to attend a future meeting (probably January) and present information concerning the Transportation Plan.

Next Meeting Date

The next regularly scheduled SAC meeting will take place Tuesday, December 1, 2009, at 7 P.M. in the City Council Chambers.

Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 P.M.

This meeting was recorded.