

**CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS**  
**SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**City Building Executive Conference Room**

**Tuesday, April 5, 2011**

**Commissioners Present:** Acting Chair Kirstin Replogle, Gary Cziko, John Marlin, Todd Rusk, Stephen Wald

**Commissioners Absent:** Jean Ascoli, Marya Ryan

**Staff Present:** Bart Hagston, Jeff Engstrom, Brad Bennett

**Additional Present:** Carol McKusick

**Call to Order, Roll Call, and Declaration of Quorum**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Bart Hagston called the roll and a quorum was present.

**Changes to the Agenda**

There were no changes to the agenda submitted.

**Review of Minutes from Previous Meeting**

Motion by Mr. Marlin, second by Mr. Wald, to approve the minutes from the March 1, 2011 meeting. Motion carried.

**Public Input**

Carol McKusick addressed the Commission on the idea of the City requiring lids be closed on refuse dumpsters. She pointed out an e-mail she had recently sent Commission members on this topic. She acknowledged that Chairperson Ryan had advised her that this matter wasn't necessarily in the Commission's purview. Ms. McKusick pointed out some of the problems she felt were created by open dumpster lids. She suggested that a lid closure requirement could be applied only to the downtown area if appropriate, as that is the area in which she felt it was more of an issue.

Discussion ensued. Ms. McKusick asked that Commission members take another look at her e-mail and possibly develop a more thorough response. Commissioners reiterated Chairperson's Ryan's stated stance that the matter was more of a nuisance situation and one which the Commission isn't designed to handle. Ms. Replogle informed Ms. McKusick that

Commissioners would take another look at her e-mail to see if they felt it could be addressed through the Commission.

## **Communications**

### **Presentation by Brad Bennett, P.E., Urbana Public Works, on Stormwater Management**

Mr. Bennett gave a presentation covering local stormwater management, the proposed stormwater utility and the Boneyard Creek improvement project. He stated that stormwater management issues are typically quantity-related (flooding) or quality-related, and that quality-related concerns are a much more recent development than those regarding flooding. Mr. Bennett detailed efforts of the City to manage and prevent flooding, as well as to monitor and improve stormwater quality.

He also detailed the stormwater utility that is currently under discussion. Such a utility would provide a funding mechanism for the City to accomplish long-term stormwater management goals. Currently the City pays for stormwater efforts through general funds. Mr. Bennett indicated that the current City budget includes about \$600,000 for stormwater management, mostly for operation and maintenance issues. The City is currently in the process of developing a feasibility study on a stormwater utility. This process includes discussions with stakeholder groups, such as neighborhood associations, industry, institutions, businesses, and other governmental entities.

Stakeholders have developed a list of program priorities for the proposed utility and have looked at various funding scenarios. The group will be recommending that residential properties be charged a flat rate, with no rate tiers based upon property size. Commercial properties would be charged based upon their impervious area. The proposed program has a projected budget of \$1.68 million per year, with operation and maintenance accounting for 45% of the budget and capital improvements accounting for 31%. Currently there is very little budgeted for stormwater capital improvements. The budget also includes \$50,000 for incentives or credits for green projects undertaken at non-residential properties and \$30,000 to help reimburse homeowners for residential water quality projects, like rain gardens and rain barrels. Residential properties would not be allowed a discount on their stormwater utility fee because it would be impractical to inspect and verify stormwater reduction measures on thousands of residential properties. All of these details are preliminary until the City Council approves further action, which will not be until at least July 2011. Once approved, it would take 9-12 months to get out the first stormwater utility bills.

Mr. Bennett also provided details on the Boneyard Creek improvement project, which is aimed at beautification along the creek as it flows through Urbana from Main Street to University Avenue. The creek has been divided into five distinct planning reaches. Reach 3, which runs from Griggs Street to Broadway Avenue, is the first one being addressed. Mr. Bennett displayed preliminary designs for this reach. Some property acquisition and/or easements will be needed to implement the design. The current schedule on this project is for the City Council to approve the 30% project design in May and, if approved, construction would begin in late 2012/early 2013, with completion in 2014 or 2015. This project would be implemented using TIF funds.

Mr. Bennett fielded various questions from members of the Commission about his presentation topics.

### **Monthly Staff Report**

Bart Hagston provided the Commission with a copy of a memo he developed for the City Council dated March 24, 2011. The memo updated council on new materials being accepted by the U-CYCLE program, as well as on activities recently discussed by the Sustainability Advisory Commission, including ongoing EECBG projects, the Climate Action Plan, and water resource issues. Plans for the truckload sale of compost bins and rain barrels on April 9, 2011 were also discussed.

### **Continuing Business**

A document developed by Chairperson Ryan titled “Water Planning Processes and Related Resources” was pointed out. The document had been previously e-mailed to Commission members.

Mr. Rusk reiterated his point from last month’s meeting that he felt the Mahomet Aquifer Consortium could provide the Commission with information useful to discussions on water resource planning.

### **New Business**

No new business was discussed.

### **Announcements**

Ms. Replogle stated that the Sierra Club is looking for volunteers to assist with cleanup work in Armory Park during the Boneyard Creek Community Day on April 16.

Mr. Marlin stated that prairie plants would be available for purchase at the Horticulture Club flower and garden show on April 9-10 at the Stock Pavilion and on May 7 at Lincoln Square Village from Grand Prairie Friends.

Mr. Cziko announced that C-U Bike to Work Day would take place on May 3 and some other bicycling workshops are being scheduled.

The next regularly scheduled Commission meeting will take place Tuesday, May 3, 2011 at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. This meeting was recorded.