

CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION
City Council Chambers
Tuesday, September 13, 2011

Commissioners Present: Chairperson Marya Ryan, Gary Cziko, John Marlin, Aaron Petri, Kirstin Replogle, Todd Rusk

Commissioners Absent: Stephen Wald [*excused*]

Staff Present: Bart Hagston, Kate Brickman, Jeff Engstrom

Additional Present: Carol McKusick, Rachel Vellenga

Call to Order, Roll Call, and Declaration of Quorum

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

Ms. Ryan welcomed Aaron Petri as a new Sustainability Advisory Commission member.

Changes to the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda submitted.

Review of Minutes from Previous Meeting

A motion was made by Ms. Replogle, second by Mr. Cziko, to approve the minutes from the June 29, 2011 meeting. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Rusk, second by Ms. Replogle, to approve the minutes from the August 13, 2011 non-quorum meeting. Motion carried.

Public Input

Ms. McKusick, 403 W. University, Urbana, spoke to the Commission concerning her proposal for an ordinance to require closed dumpster lids for commercial properties.

Communications

Monthly Staff Report

Mr. Hagston provided the September Staff Report that gave updates on the following items:

- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant projects;
- Electronics recycling event results and an upcoming collection event;
- City Council approval of a commercial recycling ordinance;
- Attendance at the Urban Sustainability Leadership Academy;
- Student volunteer assisting with climate planning research;
- 25th Anniversary of the U-Cycle program.

Discussion and questions ensued.

Mr. Hagston also discussed the following items not included in his written report:

- Recent City Council approval of a policy to allow the development of rain gardens and bioswales within the public right of way. The policy calls for the submission of plans to Public Works for review and approval and requires a right of way permit for their placement.
- A presentation of the video *Bag It (Is your life too plastic?)* will be held on September 20 at the Art Theatre in Champaign. The event will also feature a panel discussion.
- Discussion amongst city leaders in Urbana and Champaign about community aggregation of residential and small business electrical power accounts to reduce electrical bills and possibly increase the use of renewable energy supplies.
- The recent submission by Champaign County Regional Planning Commission of a HUD sustainable communities regional planning grant pre-application. If they are selected to submit a full application, the City of Urbana will be asked to commit some resources as a project partner. The resulting grant would fund a three-year regional sustainability planning project.
- A roundabout study was recently completed by an outside engineering firm and presented to City Council. The study looked at two potential locations for roundabouts as they are both nearing the time for signal upgrades. The locations studied were the intersections of Florida and Philo and Race and Windsor. The study showed favorable reductions in traffic accidents from roundabouts versus existing signals/signs, but the cost estimates were not as favorable as supporters had hoped. Much concern about a roundabout at Florida and Philo was presented to the Council by representatives from PACE. The concerns centered on the impacts such an installation might have on those in wheelchairs or with visual impairments trying to cross the road. City staff are currently gathering information from other municipalities that utilize roundabouts to help answer the questions which were raised.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Cziko stated that he was also compiling information on roundabouts for consideration by the City Council.

Continuing Business

Climate Action Plan

Mr. Hagston pointed out an email from ICLEI which he had distributed to Commission members. The email was a response to questions he posed to ICLEI regarding their CAPPA planning tool. These questions had been raised during the August SAC meeting.

Mr. Hagston stated that he had not had a chance to put together a formal proposal to move forward with the Climate Action Plan in a two-phase approach, as was discussed in August. He cited the work of the City of Kansas City, Missouri as a guideline to help move SAC, and ultimately Council, along. Phase I would include a report for submission to Council this fall that details greenhouse gas inventory results, recommends broad climate and energy policies/sustainability principles, and proposes measures that can be implemented in the short

term. Phase II would involve the development of one or more working groups to look closely at more complex emissions reduction strategies.

Discussion of this approach ensued. Mr. Rusk suggested using emissions reduction measures from the CAPPAspreadsheet as the source of our proposal measures for Phase I. Also discussed was the role of education in the community about lower-carbon alternatives. The Commission was in general agreement with the proposed two-phase approach as it would allow for a report with some recommendations to be submitted to the City Council within the next few months, versus waiting longer for submission of a more complete report.

Ms. Ryan proposed that both staff and SAC research broad-based sustainability principles for possible inclusion in the Phase I report before the October meeting. Mr. Hagston will then collate submissions for presentation at the next meeting.

New Business

Due to a scheduling conflict for Mr. Hagston, the October SAC meeting will be moved to October 11, 2011.

Announcements

Mr. Cziko announced a course teaching essential traffic cycling principles and skills to be offered September 23 and 24, 2011 in Champaign-Urbana. More information is available at cyclingsavvy.org.

Mr. Cziko announced an upcoming presentation of the video *Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time* on September 22 at the Virginia Theatre in Champaign.

Ms. Replogle pointed out that the City of Elgin had recently released a sustainability plan. She indicated the plan is online and worth a look.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

This meeting was recorded.