

CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION
City Council Chambers
Tuesday, April 3, 2012

Commissioners Present: Chairperson Marya Ryan, Stephen Wald, Gary Cziko, Rachel Vellenga

Commissioners Absent: John Marlin [excused], Aaron Petri [excused], Todd Rusk [excused]

Staff Present: Robert Myers, Kate Brickman

Additional Present: Aditi Kambuj, Kirstin Dohrer

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.

Changes to the Agenda

Ms. Ryan submitted the withdrawal of Work Plan Water Planning under New Business until an unspecified future date. There were no objections. Mr. Myers indicated that he would be covering related information in his report.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Cziko, second by Mr. Wald, to approve the minutes from the March 6, 2012 meeting. Motion carried.

Public Input

There was no input from members of the public.

Communications

Monthly Staff Report

Robert Myers provided an oral Staff Report for April that gave updates on the following items:

- **Bike Share Program** - The University of Illinois is exploring the feasibility of an on-campus bike sharing program that would make shared bicycles publicly available to University students, employees, visitors, and community members. A survey can be taken at www.surveymonkey.com/s/cubikeshare.
- **Ameren Grant Monies** – Illinois Act on Energy Programs conducted 833 home audits, 169 home retrofits, and total grant funds expended for home shell measures was \$47,553.61.
- **South Campus Solar Farm** - The University of Illinois is pursuing a solution for solar energy generation on the South Farms of the Urbana campus through a request for proposal.

- **Community Gardens** - City Staff attended the American Planning Associations 2012 Illinois State Section Spring Conference. The conference centered on sustainable local food production and planning.
- **Downtown plan** – The plan will go to the Plan Commission on April 5. It will be an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan.
- **East Central Illinois Regional Stakeholders’ Conference** – Ms. Ryan, Mr. Petri and Mr. Rusk attended a conference that addressed issues relating to the Mahomet Aquifer. Ms. Ryan gave a summary of issues related new research on replenishment of the aquifer and on drought planning. The Consortium solicited input from attendees about its future focuses.

Discussion and questions ensued.

Update on Plastic Bag Fee

The Champaign City Council voted 6-3 in favor of a proposal for either a fee or a ban on single-use plastic and paper bags in retail stores in Champaign. The City conducted an online survey to allow community members to give input on whether they favored a fee, a ban or other options, with 65 percent voting in favor of either banning the bags or instituting a fee.

Update on hiring Urbana Environmental Sustainability Manager

The position vacancy left by Bart Hagston has received 50 applications. Staff is currently setting up interviews.

Presentation by Robert Myers, Planning Manager, Community Development Services Department

There was no presentation this evening. Mr. Myers invited SAC members to submit topics in which the Commission may be interested for future presentations.

Continuing Business

Update on Urbana’s Climate Action Plan: Phase I

Robert Myers indicated that a meeting had been held March 21 between City staff and the Mayor for review of and feedback/comments on the CAP final draft that SAC had forwarded. Mr. Myers relayed the following recommendations from the Mayor:

- More transparency in the formulas and the assumptions used within the ICLEI software;
- Documentation of what content areas contain input gathered from the public; and
- Inclusion of applicable energy usage numbers from the University of Illinois.

Community Development intern Aditi Kambuj outlined a re-write of the draft that she is currently working on, to include appending comments garnered from this review process. Mr. Myers pointed out that SAC would receive the updated copy of the CAP as soon as it was prepared.

Ms. Ryan asked to what extent the City Council has been kept apprised of the Commission's progress on the climate action plan. Mr. Myers agreed to formally update the City Council on progress within the next few weeks as part of the staff report to Council.

Mr. Wald outlined the Commission's need for access to staff comments on the draft, given its decision-making role in the content of the plan. Discussion and questions ensued regarding the most efficient method by which the SAC will be informed of the comments.

Ms. Ryan requested that a timeline with milestones be provided to the SAC at the May meeting, showing what work is left on the draft (including public and other commissions' input) and when it is projected to be completed.

New Business

Work Plan for CAP Phase II

After logistical discussion, Mr. Myers agreed to forward a prospective work plan timeline for the CAP Phase II document to Commission members.

Announcements

Ms. Vellenga announced a Natural Yard Care Workshop being held on Saturday, April 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Champaign Public Library.

Mr. Cziko announced a 3 hour Cycling Savvy Course taking place at the Activities and Recreation Center Auditorium, 201 East Peabody Drive, Champaign on Monday, April 16 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

This meeting was recorded.