

City of Lawrence  
Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB)  
September 11, 2013 minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Boog Highberger, Matt Lehrman, Michael Morley, Daniel Poull, Ian Spomer, Scott White, Adam Ritchie, Kathleen Nuckolls, Dale Nimz

MEMBERS ABSENT: Steve Vukelich

STAFF PRESENT: Tammy Bennett, Eileen Horn, Kathy Richardson

PUBLIC PRESENT: Jenny O'Brien

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**Item #1: Call Meeting to Order (Scott White, Chair person)**

Take roll call to determine quorum of members.

**Item #2: Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**Motion** and second to approve the August 14, 2013 minutes. (Michael Morley/Ian Spomer). Vote: Motion was passed unanimously.

**Item #3: Follow-up Item:** Permitting and inspection fees for installations of renewable energy.

On August 29<sup>th</sup>, the Building code Board of Appeals met to consider the request to reduce the building permit fees for installation of solar PV and solar thermal systems. They voted unanimously to set a standard fee for standalone solar PV and thermal systems (that do not require additional building modifications) at \$65/system. This will go to the City Commission, likely October 1. Eileen will keep SAB informed as to when that appears on an upcoming agenda.

No Further Action Needed.

**Item #4: New Item: Review and discussion of the update to the City's Water Conservation Plan.**

Jenny O'Brien and the Sustainability Action Network requested that the SAB review the city's Water Conservation Plan to consider including residents watering vegetable gardens as an approved exemption to water restrictions. The City Commission heard and approved the Plan at their meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup>, so the time for comment has passed.

However, Eileen contacted Jeanette Klammer from the Utilities Department, and Jeanette indicated that there is existing language in the Water Warning stage that would allow vegetable gardeners to continue watering – including exemptions for water new plantings and hand-watering practices.

## Item #5: Staff Reports

- a. Eileen Horn addressed all items on the Sustainability Coordinator report. Of particular interest were the food hub feasibility study with Douglas County and the upcoming Institute for Sustainable Communities Leadership Academy on Local Food Systems. Mayor Dever and Commissioner Schumm will attend with members from the food policy council.

Eileen also shared that the Parks and Recreation Department is working on an innovative multi-phase trail project with Bert Nash and Outside for a Better Inside. Eileen shared a map showing the proposed route.

- b. Kathy Richardson addressed the Solid Waste Division Report. Of particular interest were upcoming events:
  - **Fall Compost & Woodchip Sales – SELF LOAD:** Opens early for SELF-LOAD ONLY: Compost and Woodchip Sale - Saturday, October 5 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (\$10 per truck or trailer load; small quantities free; bring a shovel).
  - **Compost and Woodchip Sale** - Thursday through Saturday, October 10, 11, 12 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. or until the supply is depleted (city will load trucks and trailers; \$10 per bucket load, equivalent to two cubic yards; bring a tarp to secure woodchips in trucks and trailers to prevent littering the roadway).
  - **Fall Lawrence Electronic Recycling Event:** The City of Lawrence will host an electronic recycling event on Saturday, November 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Free State High School north parking lot, 4700 Overland Drive.

## ITEM # 6- Discussion with Commissioner Jeremy Farmer.

Commissioner Farmer and SAB discussion topics included:

- Commissioner Farmer's interest in sustainability as it relates to economic development and primary jobs. Commissioner Farmer encouraged SAB to research and advise the Commission on how to attract "green jobs" and sustainable economic development.
- The SAB members also asked how they can be most effective in their communications with Commissioners. Commissioner Farmer encouraged them to bring ideas and recommendations to the Commission in a pro-active, rather than reactive manner.
- Commissioner Farmer also discouraged the "How does X project contribute to sustainability?" question. He thought this would be subjective and time-consuming. He instead asked SAB to consider creating a Sustainability Plan so that the Commission knows what the city's sustainability priorities are, rather than asking it on each and every project.

## **ITEM # 7 – Member Updates.**

Boog Highberger suggested that SAB consider asking the city for an annual grant budget to be used by the SAB board for sustainable projects. One idea discussed was to utilize a budget to fund mini-grants to sustainability organizations in the community and/or work with neighborhoods on projects they identify as priorities.

Daniel Poull suggested a competition between the neighborhoods for recycling once the recycling bins come out. City staff thought that should be revisited 6 months after the rollout of the program and better baseline data and participation % could be given.

Scott White is working with area environmental and wildlife organizations to suggest mowing best management practices that encourage biodiversity and habitat. Scott will bring to the SAB at a later date.

## **ITEM # 8 – Public Comment.**

Jenny O'Brien offered the suggestion that the City should consider a "Bus Ambassadors" program and visit 8<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms to talk to students about how to ride the T. Her rationale was that children this age can't drive but want independence which the bus could provide. Also, teaching young people how to utilize transit at a young age can help make them transit users when they're adults.

Jenny also requested a letter of support for her Lawrence on Board rideshare program. This will be discussed at the October board meeting.

## **Next regular SAB meeting:**

October 9, 2013 at 5:30 p.m.

## **Attachments:**

Sustainability Coordinator Report

Waste Reduction and Recycling Division Report