

Meeting Highlights:

- SAB continued their discussion of sustainable economic development with the City Economic Development Coordinator and the Economic Development Project Manager at the Chamber of Commerce.
 - SAB met with the Planning Commission at their mid-month meeting to discuss ways to strengthen the relationship between Planning and SAB.
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Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) MINUTES September 9, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jackie Carroll, Dale Nimz, Sharon Ashworth, Karen Lewis, Scott White, Michael Steinle, Michael Morley

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ian Spomer, Daniel Poull, Adam Ritchie

STAFF PRESENT: Tammy Bennett, Eileen Horn

PUBLIC PRESENT: Chris Tilden, Teresa Wilke, Sarah

- I. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.
- II. Motion and second to approve the August 12 meeting minutes. (Morley/Ashworth). Motion approved unanimously.
- III. Introduction and welcome to new SAB member, Michael Steinle. Michael will be completing the term vacated by Kathleen Nuckolls (term expires Dec. 2016).

Michael shared a bit about his background, and his experience working in the resiliency field since September 11, 2001. He is looking forward to his time on the SAB board.

- IV. Follow-up from August meeting: Discussion of economic development incentives that support sustainable development in Lawrence. Invited guests: Brady Pollington, Lawrence Chamber of Commerce & Britt Crum-Cano, City of Lawrence. (*motion, take action, table item, decline to take action*)

Britt Crum-Cano and Brady Pollington attended the meeting, and provided SAB with an overview of economic development work in Lawrence and Douglas County.

Ms. Crum-Cano has degree in Urban Planning and used to work for a developer and earned LEED AP. She cited the former Farmland property (Venture Park) and the new Lawrence Public Library of examples of the City's progress towards sustainability. She also shared the example of the Sunlighten LED manufacturer

that received city economic development incentives, as an example of the City Commission's support of green businesses. Britt and Brady outlined two key categories that SAB could think about:

Economic Development projects – create good paying jobs, raise revenues of community, expand tax base, etc. It is difficult to land these types of projects – very competitive. Any additional costs put upon developers will reduce chances of our landing the project. She shared that the current tax abatement policy has an incentive for LEED buildings, but it's not large enough to compensate for the increased cost of pursuing LEED certification. Incentives aren't going to push them over the edge to do LEED.

Mr. Pollington notes that they rely on KC Area Development Council (17 county organization) and Kansas Department of Commerce for leads on new Economic Development projects. To recruit companies there are two things they look for:

- i. Location - cost of policies, building codes; infrastructure availability (in city or outside); our competition is other college towns (Big 12 plus) in Plains region.
- ii. Workforce.

Community Development projects - Includes housing, municipal buildings (library), quality of life. Britt notes it's a balance game, emphasizing one value, such as environment, will lead to demoting of another. Competing values. Affordable housing is a big issue. There is a dearth of homes in the \$150-200K range. Most new homes in the \$300K+ range. Some new industries that pay average wages of \$28-32K/year would have trouble affording to live in Lawrence.

Dialogue about if/how Lawrence could offer "fast track" permitting for sustainable buildings. They shared that it currently takes about 6 weeks for review. Question raised - what will have to give if we pursue speed in permitting? Scrutiny in some area will likely lessen.

- V. Report-out on presentation to the Planning Commission re: Sustainable communities and connection to SAB – Eileen, Dale. (*motion, take action, table item, decline to take action*)

Report on presentation to Planning Commission regarding Sustainable Communities and connection to SAB. Dale and Eileen attended the Commission meeting and Eileen gave a presentation. Planning Commission was receptive to having a liaison with SAB, but need to think about it. No action taken, simply an update.

- VI. Discussion of the Kasold "Road Diet" project and consideration of a SAB letter of support. (*motion, take action, table item, decline to take action*)

Dale lead discussion on whether we want to support this. Jackie provided some background on this. The Diet would reduce Kasold from four to three lanes with a turn-lane. This project came out of Public Works because this road needs to be rebuilt and there is some funding that is a part of this. Chris Tilden noted that KDOT would provide \$1 million for a Roundabout, but there is not enough right-of-way for a two-lane roundabout. Kasold is functionally built out. Traffic has been consistent for many years and if projected to remain so. Discussion ensued to understand the issue and what the options are. The other option is a complete rebuild as is. A motion was made by Jackie that we create a letter of support for Option 1 of the Kasold rebuild, 2nd by Michael Morley. Motion passed unanimously.

- VII. Report-out from SAB committees on progress towards annual work plan:

- a. Energy conservation committee
Nothing new to report.
- b. Water conservation committee
Sharon met with Mike Wallace and Dave Wagner on water rates. They would like to use SAB as a sounding board for new proposed rate structures. Some issues that were raised include new developments. If we want lawns and trees, that will require water. Water rates pay some money to General Fund. City does not have a Franchise Fee, which many communities have, but like electric and gas utilities, put some money toward General Fund. If we alter rates, it could affect city budget. There is also some issues with gap between city use and peak use. The gap is growing. Sharon to speak on water at Ideate. Daniel P. is working on looking at City of San Francisco's guideline to use of greywater and noted that Lawrence does not prohibit use of laundry water (only) to be used for landscaping.
- c. Land use planning committee
worked with Planning Commission and Smart Code.

- VIII. Staff Report: City/County Sustainability Coordinator, Eileen Horn

Pasted below.

- IX. Action Items. What are the key takeaways to share with the Commission? What are key topics for next month's agenda?
- a. Key takeaways: Discussion on economic and community development, and development of relationship with Planning Commission.

- X. Member Updates.
- XI. Public Comment.
 - a. Sarah, a KU Journalism student, sat in.
 - b. Theresa Wilke is interested in implementing a ban on plastic bags. Or charge people to use plastic and use the money to fund sustainability development.
- XII. Adjourn

Next regular SAB meeting: October 14, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. Venue: City Hall Public Works Conference Room (ground floor)

Sustainability Coordinator Report to the SAB: September 9, 2015

- ✓ **We re-launched our Facebook page! Please promote:**
www.facebook.com/LawrenceandDouglasCountySustainability
- ✓ **City/County Food Policy Council Projects:**
 - Urban Agriculture: At the June 23rd commission meeting, Mayor Farmer directed Planning staff to work with the Food Policy Council on an urban agriculture overlay zoning classification. The FPC will discuss this at their August 17th and September 21st meetings. In addition, the FPC just released a survey that received 150+ responses. We will host a public meeting on September 28th to receive public comment on a draft urban ag ordinance.
 - Market Match: our SNAP matching program continues its win-win proposition:
 - \$11,779 SNAP dollars redeemed at all markets
 - \$11,503 SNAP dollars matched at all markets
 - \$23,282 total dollars spent with local farmers
 - 254 low-income families benefited

- Common Ground: We are looking for a community partner to apply for 815 Oak St. in North Lawrence for an innovative partnership with Habitat for Humanity.

✓ The **Heartland Local Government Sustainability Network** :

- The 25 members of the HLGSN will be hosting our annual meeting here in Lawrence. They chose Lawrence to learn about our local food system innovations and our work on a sustainable procurement pilot project. The meeting is scheduled for September 17-18.

- ✓ **Recycling in Unincorporated Area**: County Commissioners approved a pilot project for drop-off recycling locations around the County. Two single stream bins will be located at the four locations.

- ✓ **Douglas County Fairgrounds Project**: The County is in process of hiring a construction management firm for the approximately \$6 million renovation of the fairgrounds. We are designing sustainability elements into the project.

Vinland Fair Site (parking lot)
711 E 1750 Rd
Stull United Methodist Church
1596 E 250 Road Lecompton, KS 66050
Wakarusa Valley School
1104 E 1000 Rd, Lawrence, KS 66047
Prairie Moon Waldorf School
1853 E 1600 Rd, Lawrence, KS 66044

- ✓ **Bike Share Feasibility**: The MPO office and City received funding to support a feasibility study to assess a bike share program for Lawrence and KU.

- ✓ **STAR Communities Certification**: We were accepted into the STAR Leadership Program, which provides scholarship and technical assistance to cities as they work through the STAR certification process. In Oct, three staff will attend the launch in DC, and then we will begin the data collection and reporting phase. As part of our technical assistance, STAR staff will host a charrette in Lawrence in late October/early November. It would be great to have SAB members participate!

- ✓ **Solar PV at Prairie Park Nature Center**: Check out the array's output here: <https://monitoring.solaredge.com/solaredge-web/public?name=Prairie%20Park%20Nature%20Center#/dashboard>