

## Meeting Highlights

- 1. SAB discussed the City's STAR rating, and will dig deeper into specific recommendations at their December meeting.**
- 2. SAB is interested in supporting a green building policy for publicly-owned buildings.**

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### Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) Minutes November 9, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sharon Ashworth, Michael Steinle, Karen Lewis, Scott White, Rachel Krause, Dale Nimz, Travis Robinett

MEMBERS ABSENT: Adam Ritchie, Steve Evans, Jackie Carroll

STAFF PRESENT: Eileen Horn, Kathy Richardson

PUBLIC PRESENT: Brett Holm

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I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Determine quorum of members. Pressing Items?

Meeting was called to order at 5:38 pm.

II. APPROVE OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES.

Minutes for October - moved by Michael, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Travis. Approved.

III. Discussion of STAR Communities score, next steps, role of SAB in implementation (Eileen to lead).

Eileen shared a short synopsis of STAR score. On November 29<sup>th</sup>, the City will host a celebration. 51 communities have received certification; Lawrence rating was in the same tier as Portland, OR and Austin, TX. Highest rating in Kansas!

Lawrence did very well in Education, Arts & Community, Built Environment, and Health & Safety. Lowest category was Equity & Empowerment and Natural Systems.

Re-certification happens every three years.

Eileen would like to use this system as our on-going scorecard for Sustainability and others agreed that this could be a way to hone SAB focus on issues that are lacking or could use more attention.

- IV. Report-out from SAB committees on progress towards annual work plan:
  - a. Energy conservation committee – no report.
  - b. Water conservation committee - New Water Rate structures brought to City Commission yesterday. Progressive rates – Individual Incline Block Rates is what's proposed (not adopted yet). Other local communities use this rate structure.
  - c. Land use planning committee - Dale notes that not much progress has been made, but is looking over STAR ratings to see areas that need focus.

- V. Staff Report: City/County Sustainability Director, Eileen Horn

See below.

Michael Steinle led discussion on food policy (he's our liaison to Food Policy Council). Noted several issues that arose on getting local restaurants to synchronize their waste stream with our single-stream recycling standards. That is reducing Styrofoam and plastic bags, which are not recyclable.

- a. Possible peer-to-peer education on use of recyclable or less wasteful food containers?
  - b. Food Policy Plan will present some ideas to us on things they'd like SAB to champion.
  - c. There are several Food plan meetings planned across county in next week or so.
  
- VI. Action Items. What are the key takeaways to share with the Commission? What are key topics for next month's agenda?
  
- VII. Future Agenda Items

- a. Walk through areas of STAR that we did not get points for. Develop matrix.
- b. Strategic planning meeting at beginning of year.
- c. Sharon Ashworth would like to present info from upcoming MARC meeting.
- d. Travis is going to EPA meeting and would like to present a summary of this meeting.

VIII. Member Updates.

- a. Rachel working on independent reading project with student on sustainability. Will see if there's a way to link this project with STAR issues (Environmental Justice), this could be a way to do some research.
- b. Travis has a colleague at EPA who approached him on Green Power Partnership. Lawrence last involved with GPP in 2010, had to do with RECs. Wondering if there's a way Lawrence can be part of GPP, but without having to buy RECs.
- c. Travis also noted that he has possible SAB candidate and will encourage her to apply.
- d. Dale is in process closing on a rural property in Jefferson Co. Closing in December and he'll need to step down from SAB, as he'll no longer be a resident of Lawrence. Knows of others who are willing to be chair. Elections to take place in December. We'll need a new Secretary, too. He would like to stay involved in these issues, but not sure where.

IX. Public Comment.

X. Adjourn

**Next regular SAB meeting:**

December 14, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

Venue: Public Works Conference Room, City Hall

**Sustainability Coordinator Report to the SAB:  
November 9, 2016**

✓ **City/County Food Policy Council Projects:**

- Common Ground: The Food Policy Council will be assisting with a revision of the Common Ground application process to improve accessibility. SAB members are welcome to participate. Application process will begin in January 2017.
- The Douglas County Food System Plan: Please join us at one of the Food Plan Community Conversations:
  - **Thursday, November 10, 6:00pm to 7:30pm: Lecompton Community Building, Lecompton**
  - **Saturday, November 12, 10:00am to 11:00am: Union Pacific Depot, Lawrence**
  - **Monday, November 14, 6:00pm to 7:30pm: Douglas Co. Fairgrounds, Meeting Hall, Lawrence**
  - **Tuesday, November 15, 6:30pm to 8:00pm: Community Center, Eudora**
  - **Wednesday, November 16, 6:00pm to 7:30pm: Lumberyard Arts Center, Baldwin City**

✓ **Energy Efficiency:**

- LEEP (Lawrence Energy Efficiency Project) is underway! The engineers and staff are finalizing designs for approximately \$12 million in energy efficiency improvements to city buildings.
- Next, the engineers will design and bid the projects through fall of 2016 and present a final IGA and contract in January 2017 to the City Commission.

✓ **Miscellaneous:**

- The County completed a Fairgrounds landscape master plan that includes native plantings, an arboretum, and a teaching vegetable garden.
- The Parks and Recreation Master Plan was presented to the City Commission at their September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. It is being revised and will be presented again soon.
- A consultant was selected for the city parking study. There will be a lot of community engagement in this process, and I will keep you informed of opportunities.
- Eileen joined an effort by the Climate and Energy Project to begin to engage NE Kansas communities in discussions of air quality related to emissions from energy production. Includes 9 counties in NE Kansas.
- **Upcoming Solid Waste Division Events**
  - Paper Shred Event - November 15<sup>th</sup>: On America Recycles Day observed on Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, the City's Solid Waste Division will host a Paper Shred Event. The Paper Shred Event will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Douglas County Fairgrounds Arena Parking Lot located at 1930 Harper Street, Lawrence. There is no fee for document shredding (maximum of 2 bags/boxes per attendee).

