

CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION (SAC)

City Council Chambers

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Commissioners Present: Chairperson Marya Ryan, Kirstin Replogle, Gary Cziko, John Marlin, Stephen Wald

Commissioners Absent: Jean Ascoli, Todd Rusk

Staff Present: Bart Hagston, Kate Brickman

Call to Order, Roll Call, and Declaration of Quorum

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. Kate Brickman called the roll and a quorum was present.

Changes to the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda submitted.

Review of Notes from Work Session

The notes from the December 14, 2010 work session on the Climate Action Plan were reviewed.

Public Input

There was no public input offered at this time.

Communications

Reduction of Speed Limits to Reduce Fuel Consumption

Gary Cziko detailed a movement in the UK that promotes lowering speed limits in residential areas to 20 MPH. In addition to reducing fuel consumption, the program makes streets safer for bicyclists and pedestrians. The website for the movement is 20splentyforus.org.uk.

Monthly Staff Report

Bart Hagston provided the February Staff Report that gave updates on the following:

- Ongoing Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant projects;
- Truckload sale of backyard compost bins and rain barrels to the public on April 9;
- Commercial Recycling Ordinance Recommendations;
- 2010 U-Cycle Collection Data; and
- Upcoming Electronics Recycling Event on March 5.

Additional Communications

Marya announced that she would be absent from the April meeting. Kirstin agreed to chair.

Marya mentioned a suggestion from an attendee at a public meeting at the Civic Center that recycling bins be provided in the City's public buildings.

Bart gave a brief report on the Big Ten City Managers Meeting in January. The topic was sustainability.

With regard to exchanging packets between SAC and the Plan Commission, Bart clarified for Marya that the intention is for the chairs to receive packets from the other commission. Marya asked any SAC members who want to get the packets to let her know and she will pass them along.

Old Business

Review of January 26, 2011, Joint Study Session

David Orr from Oberlin College gave a presentation on campus called “Black Swans and the Challenge of Resilience: Climate Change, Mitigation and Planning”. Members of SAC, the Urbana Plan Commission, and Urbana City Council were all invited as part of the quarterly effort for these entities to listen to sustainability-related information. Marya Ryan discussed the details of the presentation, as well as the breakfast the following morning. The breakfast was for invited guests representing various units of government and campus departments to talk about local climate action planning. The breakfast may result in future climate discussions amongst the participating organizations.

Update on Climate Action Plan (CAP)

Bart Hagston provided a summary of the work conducted to date by SAC and City staff relative to the Urbana CAP. Community Development intern, Zach Wooldard, is working with Bart Hagston on completing the greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction strategies included in ICLEI's CAPPA software tool. Stephen Wald and Gary Cziko will assist.

Water Resource Issues

Marya Ryan stated that water was one of the original two issues, along with energy, that the Commission was asked to investigate. At this time she would like to initiate discussion on water resource matters. Commission members were asked what water-related matters they would like to consider. Marya Ryan volunteered to look into what types of water conservation plans other communities have developed. Kirstin Replogle volunteered to look into other municipal sustainability plans and how they have addressed water conservation. John Marlin expressed interest in looking into urban landscaping and tree planting as they relate to storm water management. John agreed to look at other cities' storm water plans. Further discussion on this issue will continue at future meetings.

Stephen Wald suggested that we address the economic pillar of the triple bottom line after looking at water issues. He suggested that we integrate economic considerations into our other conversations.

Announcements

Kirstin Replogle noted that Council Member Charlie Smyth may bring draft ordinances on lighting and idling to the City Council.

Kirstin Replogle stated that the Sierra Club is developing a brochure to distribute on proper disposal of household hazardous waste. Sponsors are being sought to help cover distribution costs.

Kirstin Replogle recommended an iPad application from TreeHugger with an environmental blog that features where to take items in your area for recycling.

Gary Cziko announced that there are sustainability abroad tours in May and June in Europe.

Gary Cziko is now a league-certified cycling instructor. Bike to Work Day and other events are coming up that include an instructional component.

SAC members discussed Berkeley and other cities' pedestrian plans and suggested that pedestrian planning in Urbana be tied in with shoveling routes.

Bart Hagston noted that the Regional Planning Commission will apply for Tool 6 (Fiscal and Economic Health) of the EPA's sustainable cities building blocks.

The next regularly scheduled SAC meeting will take place Tuesday, March1, 2011 at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

This meeting was recorded.