



SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)

Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, February 28, 2017

Attending: Scott Kellogg, Ewa Sobczynska (Co-Secretary), Frank Zeoli, Kevin Luteran, Peter Sheehan (Co-Chair), Lori Quillen (Co-Secretary), Chris Spencer, Jillian Kasow (Chair – arrived late)

Absent: Randy Milano, Jennifer Viggiani, Joe Coffey, Bill Trudeau, Sandy Misiewicz, Peter Fleischer (resigned from SAC as of February 2017)

Observer: Mary Millius (Senior Planner, City of Albany), Lauren Alpert (Senior Planner, City of Albany)

1. Regular Business –35 minutes

- a. Peter Sheehan called the meeting to order, in absence of Jill Kasow. There was a discussion about the lack of quorum. As a result, the minutes of the December 13th meeting were not voted on. Similarly, there was no voting on the final version of the Annual Report for 2015-16.
- b. Ewa Sobczynska raised the issue of missing SAC members and requested an update from the Planning Department staff (for Mayoral appointees) and Leah Golby, Common Council member present at the SAC meeting. Mary Millius indicated that the Mayor's office has been reached out to and is currently looking at the options to replace missing members of SAC (Mayoral appointees). Leah Golby indicated that the meeting of the Planning Committee is coming up and should move forward on the issues of missing Common Council appointees to the SAC.
- c. Public comment period:
 - i. Leah Golby provided a short update on sustainability-related Common Council activities, including ReZone (which is being introduced to the Council in early March with a public hearing date). She indicated that a number of projects in the City are on hold until ReZone is officially voted on. She also thanked SAC for their leadership on sustainability issues in Albany.
 - ii. Jay Faherty introduced himself and expressed his interest in participating in SAC activities. Sub-Committees were suggested as one venue and his background is in water and waste treatment, as well as green and renewable energy.
- d. Communications to the SAC- Lori Quillen indicated that there were no public communications to the SAC.



e. MOE&S Activities Update

- i. Lauren Alpert provided an update on Capital Roots bike racks program (15-20 bike racks to be installed over the next few months through a grant, coordinated with DGS). She shared the latest news on the CDTA bike share with SOBI bicycle selected and starting with communications outreach in mid-March. Online survey will be set up to select bike locations – no fixed station design. They have a sponsor and will start with 160 bicycles through 4 capital cities; expanded up to 300 bikes over the first year.
- ii. Kevin Luteran shared that 4 grant applications have been submitted for a state-wide grant funding (multiple award pool); these focus on increasing energy efficiency through wireless building monitoring system (to flag high usage, especially for smaller size City building to monitor and track). The office is also tracking the energy baseline. City-wide, 90% of all City buildings have now been retrofitted with LED lights. RFP has been issued for GIS of streetlights (location, condition, etc.) – this is part of due diligence to understand what the City's assets are. Monolith Solar is installing panels on the rooftop of the Swinburne Ice Rink, but still needs to be tied to the grid; it's a small 300 kWh installation but will benefit the municipal utility bill.

2. Presentations

- a. Complete Streets Manual: Chris Spencer gave an update on the Manual which will be distributed to the Common Council soon. Consultant team also provided a robust checklist for internal process (and inter-departmental coordination), with GIS database. As a result, the Planning Dept. will be looking at projects which are scheduled to start in 3 years to ensure that all the details from the Manual can be taken into account and the necessary coordination with all different departments can be undertaken (inc. drainage, parking, signals, etc.); this will happen at the planning stage, rather than implementation phase.
- b. South End Bikeway: Chris Spencer also provided update on the Bikeway for which the preferred route has now been selected, after the public consultation period (First segment - focused to East Side South Pearl – protected lane, separated; Second segment under 787 till end of Church Street; Third Segment – along Broadway). Waterfront path will be a long term focus. The department is mobilizing funding (already there's money for engineering design, with RFP in Spring). Construction might start in Spring 2018. Final public consultation meeting is upcoming.

3. New Business



- a. Adoption of Annual report: There was no quorum to adopt the report; postponed to the following meeting. No comments on the final report from the present SAC members.
- b. Water bill informational flyer: Jill Kasow gave a quick overview of the informational flier drafted by SAC members on two issues: vehicle idling and bicycle safety due to “dooring” by car owners. She requested any feedback from SAC members and indicated that she is interested in understanding the impact such a flier could have (in terms of distribution and change in attitudes). Pete Sheehan indicated that it would be good to establish partnerships to promote such messaging, including through Stewart’s. Ewa Sobczynska had a similar suggestion to include Albany Public City Schools (and other educational efforts). SAC members suggested that such flier would not be voted upon and would be distributed when finalized (including graphic design).
- c. Commissioner updates
 - i. Frank Zeoli provided a short update on the expansion of the automated recycling trucks program, which has received a lot of positive feedback. Data collection on the impact on recycling rates is ongoing.
- d. Committee updates on priorities
 - i. Pete Sheehan indicated that the Energy SC continues its involvement with the LED streetlighting project, as one of its main priorities and plans to provide its recommendations. Sheridan Hollow project will go into implementation phase later in the Spring. In May, the SC is going to Meyer’s Middle School and Albany High to talk about energy efficiency, renewables, and occupations in those fields.
 - ii. Lori Quillen indicated that the Outreach SC plans to continue its engagement with NA, Facebook Sustainable Albany page. The SC is in conception stage of a potential event on composting in 2017. The SC is also exploring how to engage with the City Public School on sustainability issues.
 - iii. Scott Kellogg indicated there are no updates in regards to chicken legislation. No other new initiatives are ongoing (variety of involvement with environmental health and justice issues in South End and other low-income neighborhoods).
 - iv. There was a discussion about recycling in multi-use/multi-family building and whether there’s any recourse for tenants or obligations and enforcement for landlords. Frank Zeoli indicated that landlords are responsible but there’s no enforcement mechanism except for official



notice letter from the City (in case no recycling bins are provided and a complaint is received from tenants).

- v. Ewa Sobczynska inquired whether the SAC could present to the Common Council and what the opportunities are. Leah Golby explained that SAC can participate during the public comment period (before the Council meetings - 1st or 3rd Monday, 7pm), or by contacting a Council member. Wednesday Caucus is also an opportunity.
- 4. Discussion of next meeting on Thursday, April 27, 2017 – no comments.
- 5. Adjournment

Ewa Sobczynska
April 26, 2016