

SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) MEETING NOTES

Thursday, June 25, 2015, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

In attendance:

Joe Coffey, Pete Fleischer, Jillian Kasow, Scott Kellogg, Shadi Khadivi, Kate Lawrence, Peter Sheehan, Chris Spencer, Bill Trudeau, Jennifer Ceponis, Ewa Sobczynska, Lori Quillen, Frank Zeoli

1. Call to Order. Pete Sheehan (Chair Jillian Kasow was scheduled to arrive late) called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.; SAC members were provided agendas.
2. Public comment period. Members of the public were present and there were three speakers:
 - a. City of Albany's Common Council Member: Leah Golby:
 - Acknowledged and appreciated SAC efforts along with Kate Lawrence's efforts to finish our first year of the SAC.
 - b. City of Albany's Office of Corporation Council: Adriana Le Blan
 - Introduced herself and her role with the SAC. Her role is to provide legal advice to the SAC.
3. Kate Lawrence introduced possible collaboration to the SAC with the Madison Theatre that is willing to host a film series that focuses on sustainability. Outreach Committee expressed interest in leading the effort.
4. Adoption of the first SAC Annual Report was completed.
 - a. Next steps to incorporate the report into the City of Albany's website with hotlinks was discussed.
 - b. Group acknowledged the efforts in completing the Annual Report, and especially member Ewa Sobczynska in her efforts in compiling information and drafting the document.
 - c. Pete Sheehan motioned to adopt the Annual Report.
5. SAC Vacancies: One vacant position at the SAC exists that needs to be filled for 2015-2016. This position is appointed from the City of Albany's Common Council.
6. Scheduling of SAC meetings. Ewa Sobczynska requested a new meeting time of the SAC because of a recurrent scheduling conflict. The group agreed to meet on Tuesdays instead of Thursdays for the 2015 portion of the term.

7. Power point presentation by Kate Lawrence, City of Albany, regarding NYPA 5 City Plan--graphics comparing the focus and interest for the City of Albany. Diagrams represent that Albany has the least dense population of the five cities but uses the most energy per capita compared with the other 4 cities.
 - a. Build Smart NY: 5 Cities Energy Plans effort is Gov. Cuomo's BuildSmart NY Initiative initially launched by *Executive Order 88*¹ in 2012.
 - b. Focuses on Albany, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, and Yonkers.
 - c. City of Albany made a commitment to energy efficiency and sustainability through its participation in the STAR communities Rating System (STAR) and the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program.
 - d. Energy Planning and Coordination**
 - Initiative 1: Implement the Albany Green Business (GBC) Program
 - 13% of citywide energy consumption to support environmental improvements in the sector.
 - Initiative 2: Support a green jobs training program
 - Initiative 3: Develop a long-term energy supply strategy (gas and electricity) and the City of Albany will assign staff and/or hire a consultant to assess energy pricing risks and maintain long-range energy use forecasts.
 - Initiative 4: Create a Citywide Energy Manager Position to monitor energy consumed by the City's buildings, manage projects aimed at reducing consumption.
 - Initiative 5: Use a web-based energy data management tool to track and monitor municipal energy use, procedures and policies on a monthly or quarterly basis.
 - e. Energy Efficiency in Buildings**—tie in with current efforts for ReZone Albany
 - f. Transportation Efficiency**

The document is online: <http://www.nypa.gov/AlbanyEnergyPlan.html>

8. Frank Zeoli, Director of Recycling at the Department of General Services gave an overview of the Recycling Plan for the City of Albany. Successes thus far include:
 - a. City of Albany public schools now recycle
 - b. New program for all the city buildings
 - c. Light bulb collection program
 - d. 2010 City of Albany incorporated Solar Big Bellies to reduce frequency of pick up.
 - e. DGS has established an electronics drop off recycle program

¹ Aims to improve the energy efficiency of NY State buildings by 20% in 2020.

9. Questions included:
 - a. Ewa Sobczynska: Has the City of Albany considered textile recycling?
 - F.Z.- Acknowledged the question and the significance of it, but at this point suggested that there are places for textile drop off at Salvation Army
 - b. Shadi Khadivi: Questions about composting pick-up and questioned why Albany did not consider this as an option with our landfills filling up.
 - F.Z.- Acknowledged the question and value in composting and encouraged residents to compost in their backyard. But the City is not in a place to implement a program because it is cheaper to send compost to trash, until prices go up there is lack of incentive for the City of Albany to change.
10. Questions and focus on recycling include:
 - a. How can we create a community and youth that is excited to learn about recycling?
 - b. Invitations to schools to bring the trucks in. Would be nice to make the connections and focus on the younger kids who are excited to learn.
11. Discussion for next meeting:
 - a. Next steps to organize the ground work for the annual report, including now specifically outreach and prioritization. It is important for the active members of the SAC (not including actual City of Albany employees) to focus and develop ideas for Common Council.

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