



SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)

Meeting Minutes: Thursday, April 5, 2018

Attending: Joe Coffey, Ewa Sobczynska (Secretary), Peter Sheehan (Co-Chair), Kevin Luteran, Jill Kasow (Chair), Randy Milano, Lauren Alpert, David Galin

Absent: Scott Kellogg, Frank Zeoli, Bill Trudeau, Sandy Misiewicz, Chris Spencer, Allison Bradley, Laurie Wheelock

1. Regular Business

- Jill Kasow welcomed SAC members in the meeting. It was noted that the quorum of SAC voting members was not present and therefore this would not be an official meeting. The attached notes will not be formally approved.
- Discussion of February 1, 2018 minutes – given the lack of quorum, no vote on Minutes from Feb 1 meeting took place – postponed till June meeting.
- Public comment period – There were a number of members of public present at the meeting. They gave a short introduction: a) Malcolm, a local college student, Senior; b) Matthew, City resident for over 10 years, came to learn more about the SAC; c) Meghan, Coordinator of SUNY Albany Student Affairs and part of SUNY Albany Sustainability efforts task force, City resident for 5 years; d) Carol, City resident and environmental political activist.
- Recent/upcoming events/MOES updates:
 - Land Use Committee Common Council (CC) presentation: Pete gave a short update on the SAC and MOES participation in the recent Land Use Committee Common Council meeting (March 27). The Committee requested an update on SAC and sustainability efforts also in the context of the SAC 3 vacancies (Common Council appointees). Kevin gave an extensive presentation on the energy efficiency initiatives (LED street lights, solar/renewable energy City programs - 10MW solar to introduce renewables in the energy mix for the City, 1.4m in grants, etc.) – **Kevin to share this presentation with the SAC members (Dropbox link - <https://www.dropbox.com/s/0yvau9gt5okc5u5/SustainabilityProjectUpdates.pdf?dl=0>)**. Lauren gave a short update on other sustainability efforts, inc. Tivoli Preserve plans, South End bike link, etc. Pete and Ewa gave short updates on SAC and the Energy Sub-committee initiatives in particular. There was a short discussion about the needed profiles for the 3 vacant SAC seats.
 - Upcoming Earth Day Rotunda Event (April 23): There was a discussion about the Mayor's Earth Day event which is co-sponsored by SAC. Suggested



format (as presented by Pete) would be to invite vendors and interested organizations in the area of sustainability. David clarified that the Mayor would make a short presentation but then had to attend other events. David's colleagues are working on the design of the flier and Mayor's presentation. SAC members will be invited to give a short presentation.

2. New Business

- Discussion on Compact of Mayors Goals, including presentation by Ewa Sobczynska (**Dropbox link to full presentation - https://www.dropbox.com/s/c4lcwkf02p8inrv/SAC_Mayor%27s%20goals_climate%20action%20City%20of%20Albany_ES_04052018.pdf?dl=0**)
 - Ewa Sobczynska gave a short overview presentation of Mayor's goals in terms of climate change and sustainability. The objective of the presentation was to present the context for Mayor's goals (Paris agreement, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), and the contribution of urban areas to GHG emissions) and the current commitment as part of the Compact of Mayors initiative – 9% reduction in GHG emissions. Albany Climate Action Plan currently does not set an actual emission target.
 - Joe Coffey indicated that it is his understanding that most of the City departments, as the Water Department, do not have a baseline for their carbon footprint so it's difficult to set a target for GHG emissions reduction. He had requested a baseline inventory when he started in his role, under the impression that mayor's office/energy manager would undertake it; it's unclear whether this is being planned and what's the status update. His department would like to get a baseline soon so that proper planning of any targets could be set.
 - Kevin Lutern indicated that the Albany 2030 inventory had general info on GHG emissions for each department (Ewa Sobczynska clarified that for "water sector" the Albany 2030 plan only focuses on the wastewater treatment plant); previous inventories have only been done on City buildings and operations. Kevin Luteran has done baselines for City-owned buildings. Luteran: previous inventories have only been on city buildings and operations (boundaries being city limits). He indicated he could share the GHG inventory undertaken by the consultants for the Albany 2030 plan with the SAC/City Departments and look into the methodology.
 - Jill Kasow indicated that this discussion about GHG emissions goals will continue at the future SAC meetings.
- Commissioner's updates
 - Randy Milano gave an update on Albany Skyway project which recently had a public presentation meeting. Green infrastructure will be incorporated into this project. The project, as proposed, prolongs the life of the structure (ramp)



but also offer economic development benefits and has multiple sustainability aspects. It is currently in the preliminary design phase (2018). The City is working with DOT on the project until the final design, including on ADA issues, fall protection, etc. It is hoped that the project enters the construction phase in 2019.

○ Joe Coffey gave a number of updates:

1. Carbon project (Alcove Reservoir working woodlands project w/TNC) is progressing. Carbon credits have been sold and it was beyond what was foreseen in the agreement.
2. Water quality in Hudson (15 year consent order)– 2 projects currently in progress/design:
 - a. Floatable debris collector in 5 downtown areas (\$8million, 1 year)
 - b. Beaver Creek/Lincoln Park Clean-up project (\$50, DEC consent order) – to collect combines sewer, screen the material, chlorinate and then pump it back. Project currently is being consulted with the communities around Lincoln Park. Toast public school has been consulted and supports the project. The project would include an interactive design with sustainable aspects (wetland, interactive outside classroom, etc.). Construction to begin in 2019, to be completed by 2022. It would help with the long-term flooding issues in the City.
 - c. Tivoli day lighting project (\$3m, \$2m in grants) (**Dropbox link** - <https://www.dropbox.com/s/wi8xm56lsabi8eo/Water%20Department%20-%20-%20Tivoli%20Park.pdf?dl=0>). The project would enhance existing trail project and open up the area to a new flood plain that existed before. There will be flow of water from Quail to Tivoli Lake. Project is going out to bid next month, construction starting this year (hopefully completed by next year).

• Committee Chair update:

- Pete Sheehan discussed a matrix prepared by the Energy Sub-Committee, based on Energy Plan/Albany 2030. Pete to share the file with the SAC electronically.

3. Adjournment

Prepared by: Ewa Sobczynska, May 18, 2018