



Sustainability Committee Minutes  
Thursday May 9, 2019  
7:30 A.M.  
City Hall Conference Room B

Members Present: Julianna Johnston Senturia, Committee Chair, Council Member  
Sean P. Malone, Council Member  
Julianne Potter, Citizen Member  
Norman Robbins, Citizen Member  
Anne Williams, Council Member

Others Present: David Weiss, Mayor  
Jeri Chaikin, Chief Administrative Officer  
Joyce Braverman, Director of Planning  
Michael Peters, Sustainability Coordinator  
Barbara Bradley, League of Women Voters Observer

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Julianna Johnston Senturia at 7:31 A.M.

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**Approval of the April 11, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

It was moved by Anne Williams and seconded by Sean P. Malone that the minutes of the April 12, 2019 meeting be approved as recorded.

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**LEED for Cities Update**

The registration documents were reviewed by the Law Department and signed by the Mayor. Anne Williams and Michael Peters will attend the June 5th and 6th session at the U.S. Green Building Council in Washington D.C. A student from Hathaway Brown has volunteered to work on the certification, potentially in conjunction with other high school students. A national press release is expected on May 21.

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## **Sustainability Committee Priorities**

In addition to being a best practice for the city, one of the items from the LEED for Cities certification is a strategy document or plan. A template with suggested items for this plan was provided to the Committee for review with the request that Committee members review and make edits and suggestions prior to the next meeting (the document is in a new Google Drive folder made available to all Committee members). A suggestion was made to include tangible metrics to measure success, and to ensure that objectives correspond to a catalogue of the goals of the city and the categories in LEED for Cities (which could correspond to subcommittees) and include opportunities for broader stakeholder input. Metrics could align to the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals.

The topics from previous work and discussions align with these efforts and include energy, stormwater management, recycling, transit, building efficiency. These recurring themes also generally align with the LEED for Cities work.

Indicators of success should include short, medium, and long term goals, specific metrics, resident engagement, and opportunities for differentiating the city. How does the city ensure that the input of stakeholders outside of the typical pathways is encouraged and received? This could include surveys, through city communications, through events, and from city staff.

Sample milestones could include adopting best practices from initiatives and programs such as LEED for Cities, Climate Mayors, Vision Zero, U.N. SDGs, etc. The Committee will discuss and come to consensus on what these milestones will be, with the initial focus on LEED for Cities and others contemplated for longer term goals. Discussions with city staff, especially on topics such as stormwater management, should also be pursued.

Managing input from various stakeholders can be tracked in the Google Drive, and could include a standing survey to allow Committee members and staff to collect input from stakeholders. This can also ensure that the focus remains on the specific goals of the Committee and is not sidetracked by larger macro issues.

Resident engagement with the Committee is encouraged and the Committee is open to time-limited comments from the public at the monthly meeting.

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## **Discussion of Subcommittees**

This item was deferred pending a follow-up discussion on Committee objectives. The subcommittees or working groups are intended to engage residents and focus on resident concerns, while the Committee itself will focus on city-specific sustainability efforts. A liaison from the Committee will be partnered with each subcommittee or working group.

What is the role of a working group? Is it education and awareness? Is it researching additional possibilities and options? For example emphasizing reducing versus recycling, advocating with businesses, and taking an active role in identifying solutions.

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**NOPEC Letter**

The Committee agreed to support a letter to NOPEC requesting that NOPEC notify those residents that have opted-in to the 100% renewable plan when their contract expires and specific mention in the mailed opt-out letter that a 100% renewable plan is available under Option 3.

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**Residential Composting Program**

Rustbelt Riders is offering a residential composting program that includes a drop-off at the Nature Center and is expected to soon include a pick-up option from residents' homes. This is an optional program and there is a fee paid by the resident to participate. This has no impact on residents' ability to continue to compost in their yard (with a permit).

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:44 A.M. The next meeting will be Thursday, June 13, 2019 at 7:30 A.M.

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Michael Peters  
Sustainability Coordinator