

Commission on Sustainability



MICHIGAN CITY INDIANA

Thursday, April 13, 2023, 4:30 pm
City Hall, EOC Room Downstairs
Agenda

Michigan City Sustainability Commissioners: Tim Bauer, Laura Henderson (Secretary), Clarence Hulse, Andie Jahnz-Davis (Assistant Chair), Daisy Lee (Treasurer), Nancy Moldenhauer (Chair), Faye Moore, La'Tonya Troutman
Student Commissioners: Tristan Bogart, Bailey Chavis, Mary Cate Neary, Angela Reynolds
City Council Liaison: Bryant Dabney

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of March 9, 2023 Minutes
- III. Reappointment of Laura Henderson and Daisy Lee to Sustainability Commission for two-year term until 2025.
- IV. Project Teams
 - A. **Solar Power Options for City Government**—Tristan Bogart [solar panel array plan update for installation of solar panels at remaining city buildings]
 - B. **Funeral Homes & Crematoriums with Plant a Tree Opportunity:** Bailey Chavis [update on thank you letters to homes with "Plant a Tree" option; result of contact with Geisen-Carlisle headquartered in Crown Point via written communication for adding "Plant a Tree" memorial option; article for Facebook]
 - C. **Waste Reduction/"Garbology"**—Daisy Lee, Tim Bauer, Bailey Chavis, Angela Reynolds, & Mary Cate Neary [explore preparation and timeline for next round of IDEM grant for recycling projects up to \$100,000; collaborative effort with Sacha Gee Burn of LaPorte County Solid Waste District, Shannon Eason of MC Parks & Rec Dept, and Robin Kohn of MC. Public Art Committee; contact within NIPSCO for potential funding will be approached when plan available; *Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory for carbon footprint reduction indicates Michigan City and NWI are extremely high for sending trash to landfills instead of practicing reduction and recycling* <https://www.in.gov/idem/recycle/resources/indiana-community-recycling-grant-program/>]
 - D. **Continue Promoting SolSmart Silver Designation with Partner Indiana University Resilience Cohort**—Laura Henderson, Tristan Bogart, Angie Reynolds, & Nancy Moldenhauer [Desire this year to begin slow review of programs we may not have acquired points to apply for Gold Designation in 2024; La'Tonya to look into sign availability to put on poles with Tree City and Bird Habitat signs already placed by streets; what could we do to continue leveraging SolSmart Silver Designation besides getting logo posted on Michigan City Government website?; keep sharing our link "Getting Started with Solar" found on Sustainability Commission Michigan City Government website page: <https://www.emichigancity.com/1214/Sustainability-Commission> ; <https://solsmart.org/news/soul-power-equitable-solar-workforce-development-in-michigan-city-indiana/>]

- E. **Carbon Neutral Indiana (CNI)**—Andie Jahnz-Davis, Laura Henderson, Daisy Lee & Nancy Moldenhauer [Carbon Neutral Indiana’s innovative book--entitled *Carbon Neutral Indiana: A Practical Guide to Climate Solutions*—can be ordered on line. Exploring possibility of offering book discussion at Northwest Indiana Green Drinks. Who needs to schedule an assessment, get an update for their home to become carbon neutral, or set up a monthly contribution with Daniel Poynter, Executive Director and Founder of CNI? About: <https://www.carbonneutralindiana.org/book> ; Order: <https://store.carbonneutralindiana.org/>]
- F. **U.S Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)**—Ed Shinn, Tristan Bogart, Bailey Chavis, Laura Henderson, & Nancy Moldenhauer [Scott prepared a summary of various options we’ve considered from November 2021 to November 2022 which will be forwarded to Commissioners; after discussion, need to schedule a 7th meeting as a Task Force with our consultant Scott Belding of NREL. We will continue to pursue solar array powered electric-vehicle charging stations in the planned newly reconfigured rectangular parking lot directly across from the zoo. The zoo will pursue possibility of installing solar panels on the south-facing side of their buildings while it will be determined if any power from a solar panel array parking lot installation would potentially be shared with the zoo or other structures in Washington Park. *We are receiving FREE consulting, engineering, planning services for solar array installation, electric vehicle charging stations, and electronic device chargers for workstations at Washington Park, Beach, and Zoo. When completed, we will have choices to create a plan to submit for an extremely promising future with potential green energy funds provided by the Federal Government.*]
- G. **NWI Climate/Resilience Action Planning Work Group**—Nancy Moldenhauer, Laura Henderson, & Andie Jahnz-Davis [Have not heard anything about any scheduled meetings at this time, yet it looked promising that NIRPC would get another intern from Indiana University. Best practices and model programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a draft format were created.]
- H. **Soul Power**—Donnita Skully, Faye Moore, & Nancy Moldenhauer [Level 1 & 2: OSHA 10 Safety Certification by U.S. Government and Solar Panel Installer Assistants certified by North American Board of Certified Energy Professionals (NABCEP)—23 successfully completed; Level 3: Solar Panel Installers NABCEP Certified—7 successfully completed with 2 to re-test; grant being written for Level 4: Professional Installers with required service hours, can do survey and design work, could start own company; grant will also be written to install solar panels on roof of Hope Community Center; Millennium Solar Electric of Chicago has been providing the training, yet an Indiana company may need to be found for in-person training in state. As with the first grant, Nancy will provide consultation services to strengthen submissions. *Job training and certification program for solar panel installation in partnership with NAACP LaPorte County, IBEW-531, Ivy Tech Valparaiso, WorkOne, Just Transition NWI, and MC Sustainability Commission*; interested individuals can sign up here for future offerings: <https://www.laportecountynaacp3061.org/soul-power-project>]
- I. **Solar United Neighbors (SUN)**—Faye Moore & Nancy Moldenhauer [Dan Robinson is collecting names and contact information of interested persons for potential Round 3 of installation being offered possibly Fall 2023 at drobinson@solarunitedneighbors.org ; https://public.courts.in.gov/Decisions/api/Document/Opinion?Id=cXVRn9I4RRuao6Alo0z2K0A1N5fw-Ckt_Co-Uav-jyv8MF9JXI8sz_6h2_6XWAIK0 <https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/indiana/> ; <https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/indiana/go-solar/>]
- J. **“Caught YOU Being Green” Engagement**—Andie Jahnz-Davis & Tim Bauer [Upcoming social media posts and press release; Update on Earth Month Extravaganza 2023, Saturday, April 29th, 12 noon - 4 pm, Krueger Memorial Hall]

- V. Commissioner Comments
 VI. Public Comments
 VII. Announcements
 VIII. Adjournment

