

Commission on Sustainability



MICHIGAN CITY INDIANA

Thursday, May 11, 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 April 13, 2023 Minutes
- III. Election of Officers—Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer

- IV. Project Teams
 - A. **Solar Power Options for City Government**—Tristan Bogart [Approval of Michigan City Electric Vehicle Charging Station Survey; 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 for adding "Plant a Tree" memorial option; article for Facebook and press release]
 - C. **Waste Reduction/"Garbology"**—Daisy Lee, Tim Bauer, Bailey Chavis, Angela Reynolds, & Mary Cate Neary [update on the progress of pilot project in Washington Park Beach which would include fun, colorful recycling collection containers of native species, like frogs; explore IDEM grant for recycling projects up to \$100,000; collaborative effort with Sacha Gee Burn of LP Co. 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 [Nancy presented and Andie timed at "Toward Sustainability: Earth Day Along Lake Michigan", April 22nd, sponsored by Indiana Landmarks, Indiana Humanities, and Lubeznik Center for the Arts, view video recording here: https://www.housepaintermedia.com/sustainablehouses?fbclid=IwAR0i9WndcD7KydaNUn7eu3mHg62vLq_eovd4h_r4mmbFulNXgRdmXDA8jyOM ; to begin review of programs for missed points to apply for Gold Designation in 2024; 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 [Summary of various options we’ve considered from Nov. 2021 to Nov. 2022 was forwarded; after discussion, need to schedule a 7th meeting as a Task Force with our consultant Scott Belding of NREL; continue to pursue solar array powered electric-vehicle charging stations in the planned newly reconfigured rectangular parking lot directly across from the zoo; zoo will pursue possibility of installing solar panels on their buildings; to 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; 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 Scully, Faye Moore, & Nancy Moldenhauer [Solar Panel Installers NABCEP Certified—7 successfully completed with 2 to re-test; grant being written for Professional Installers which requires service hours, can do survey and design work, could start own company; additional grant to be written to install solar panels on roof of Hope Community Center; 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 [Social media posts; engaging presentation on Commission, League of Women Voters LP Co. Chapter, April 11th, by Andie, 20 attendees; congratulations on an extremely successful 2nd Annual Earth Month Extravaganza, April 29th, 20 vendors and 418 attendees; heartfelt thanks to Sustainability Commissioners who assisted including Andie, Tim, Daisy, Faye, Laura, Nancy, & Students Angie, Bailey, Mary Cate, and Tristan who represented Commission.

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

