

Commission on Sustainability



MICHIGAN CITY INDIANA

Thursday, September 8, 2022, 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 August 11, 2022 Minutes.
- III. Reappointment of Angela Reynolds as a Student Commissioner for one school year beginning September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2023.
- IV. Brief guest presentation on issue of keeping weeds and grasses under control by grazing sheep around solar array installation by James Mellowitz.
- V. Project Teams
 - A. **Waste Reduction/"Garbology"**—Daisy Lee, Tim Bauer, Bailey Chavis, Angela Reynolds, & Mary Cate Neary [IDEM grant for recycling projects up to \$100,000 with submission acceptance from September 1 – October 6, 2022 forwarded to team; ideas from around the world for an artist commissioned native fish sculpture to collect recyclable plastic bottles and aluminum cans at Washington Park Beach was shared with team and partners, contacts within NIPSCO for potential funding and support require follow up; *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 or recycling*
<https://www.in.gov/idem/recycle/resources/indiana-community-recycling-grant-program/>
 - B. **Funeral Homes & Crematoriums with Plant a Tree Opportunity:** Bailey Chavis [Future contact with Geisen-Carlisle headquartered in Crown Point being planned]
 - C. **"Caught YOU Being Green" Engagement**—Andie Jahnz-Davis & Tim Bauer [Upcoming social media posts; Green Halloween event; report on Region Neighbors for Sustainability event presentation in Highland]
 - D. **Carbon Neutral Indiana (CNI)**—Andie Jahnz-Davis, Laura Henderson, Daisy Lee & Nancy Moldenhauer [On Wednesday, Carbon Neutral Indiana successfully launched their innovative book--entitled *Carbon Neutral Indiana: A Practical Guide to Climate Solutions* which is now available for purchase--with an inspiring panel of presenters. Who needs to schedule an assessment or get an update for their home to become carbon neutral with Daniel, Executive Director and Founder of CNI?]

About the book: <https://www.carbonneutralindiana.org/book>

To order: <https://store.carbonneutralindiana.org/>

- E. **U.S Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)**—Ed Shinn, Tristan Bogart, Bailey Chavis, Daisy Lee, Laura Henderson, & Nancy Moldenhauer [Held our 5th meeting on August 23rd with our consultant Scott Belding of NREL. We added to our list of stakeholders. A decision needs to be made in collaboration with the Zoo whether we will go with primarily supplying solar energy to the zoo or focus solely on electric-vehicle charging stations in the parking lot. Will set up a meeting with Zoo Director in the fall. Scott emphasized that NIPSCO is looking for new customers, so they would be willing to work with our Commission. We are receiving FREE consulting, engineering, and 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 funding to be provided by the Federal Government.]
- F. **NWI Climate/Resilience Action Planning Work Group** —Nancy Moldenhauer, Laura Henderson, & Andie Jahnz-Davis [Third meeting with Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) was held on Thursday, August 11th, 1 pm, via Zoom; fourth meeting will be on Thursday, September 15th, 1 pm, via Zoom.]
- G. **Soul Power**—Faye Moore & Nancy Moldenhauer [Received no update from Donnita Scully, NAACP Program Manager.]
- H. **Continue Promoting SolSmart Silver Designation with Partner Indiana University Resilience Cohort**—Laura Henderson, Tristan Bogart, & Nancy Moldenhauer [Case study authored by U.S. Department of Energy on the Michigan City SolSmart experience will focus primarily on the Soul Power aspect of how we received our SolSmart Silver Designation; 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>
- I. **Solar United Neighbors (SUN)** —Faye Moore & Nancy Moldenhauer [Plans in the making with Dan Robinson for Round 3 hopefully in the fall; Nancy’s solar panel installation scheduled for October as part of Round 1]
<https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/indiana/> ; <https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/indiana/go-solar/>
- J. **Shared Press Conference** —Faye Moore & NAACP [Watch the video of the Indiana Alliance for Equity Diversity and Inclusion of Electric Vehicle Infrastructure and Economic Opportunity. You’ll recognize some of these presenters from Northwest Indiana Green Drinks and NAACP Indiana State Conference presentations. Faye, thank you for bringing awareness and commitment to our attention.] <https://fb.watch/fhZGArGfGi/>

- VI. Commission Comments
- VII. Public Comments
- VIII. Announcements
- IX. Adjournment