

Commission on Sustainability



MICHIGAN CITY INDIANA

Thursday, January 13, 2022, 5:30 pm

Zoom Meeting

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by Chair Nancy Moldenhauer.

- I Roll Call-- (taken by Andie Jahnz-Davis as the secretary's audio not working)

Present: Nancy Moldenhauer, Andie Jahnz-Davis, Tim Bauer, Faye Moore, Laura Henderson, Tristan Bogart, Bailey Chavis, Angela Reynolds, Daisy Lee, Mary Cate Neary

Absent: Clarence Hulse, Bryant Dabney (City Council Liaison)

Excused: Phil Kohler

- II Approval of December 9, 2021, Minutes (must be re-approved at February 10, 2022, Meeting if in person or our next face-to-face meeting) -- Tim Bauer moved and Daisy Lee seconded approval of the December minutes. The motion was passed unanimously.
- III Welcome and Introduce Mary Cate Neary, Marquette High School Commissioner—Mary Cate Neary reported she was appointed by her Principal Casey Martin, plans to study sustainability in college, and thanks the Commission for the opportunity to serve and learn on the Commission. Nancy explained she will need to send a formal letter on letterhead to the clerk's office, after which she will need to go to Clerk's Office to be sworn in and sign required papers.
- IV Project Teams
- A **Solar United Neighbors (SUN)**— [Have 44 interested individuals signed up in the FREE cooperative. Thirteen are in Michigan City. Satellite review and solar energy systems installer visit completed on 31. Site visit scheduled for 1. Proposal submitted to 7. Opportunity lost on 5. Solar Energy Systems out of Nappanee was chosen as the installer by cooperative members who volunteered to select. Kindly help spread the word and let your family, friends, neighbors, organizations, and communities in LaPorte, Porter, and Lake Counties know about this opportunity for FREE cooperative membership with DISCOUNTED equipment and COORDINATED installation. Enrollment will go through the end of February. Let me know if you'd like a sign to display in your yard!] <https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/indiana/> ; <https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/indiana/go-solar/> – Nancy reports several local people have been quite satisfied interacting with Solar Energy Systems of Nappanee. She encouraged us to continue spreading the word as there is still time to join the coop.
- B **Indiana University Resilience Cohort for SolSmart Designation & Electric Vehicle Charging Station Plan**—Laura Henderson, Tristan Bogart, Daisy Lee, & Nancy Moldenhauer [Do we continue to pursue SolSmart Silver Designation or do we settle for Bronze? Couple of documents were signed by our MC Planning and Inspection Department and submitted to consultant. Have contacted Michigan City IT Department regarding the need to establish a tab or solar landing page on the Michigan City Government website. Middle of December, we were selected by the U.S. Department of Energy to be included in their National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) after having a Zoom meeting with Ed Shinn, Superintendent of MC Parks and Recreation Department, and Nancy for FREE consulting, engineering, and planning services for solar array installation, electric vehicle charging stations, and electronic device chargers at Washington Park, Beach, and Zoo. Ed Shinn is very excited

about this opportunity to provide ground breaking electrical amenities and positively improve visitor experience. When completed, we will have a plan to submit for an extremely promising future with potential green energy funding to be provided by the Federal Government.] – Discussion was held regarding whether to settle for Bronze designation or continue to try for Silver. Faye will look into getting documentation for the SoulPower project to help gather points toward Silver. The general consensus was to continue trying to find the points/documentation for Silver until March, if not by then, accept Bronze status. Nancy updated us re the U.S. Department of Energy National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) project at Washington Park and the call with them, Ed Shinn and her. There is possibility of sharing some energy with the zoo to bring down their costs, provide EV charging stations, and also provide for electronic device charging. Daisy will join the group working on this project; other Commissioners may join if they wish.

- C **Carbon Neutral Indiana (CNI)**—Andie Jahnz-Davis, Laura Henderson, Daisy Lee & Nancy Moldenhauer [We have partnered with Larry Zimmer, MC Planning Commission President, to have a "friendly competition" between Tryon Farms, Shoreland Hills, and other neighborhood associations this winter-spring for subscribers. Who needs to schedule an assessment or get an update with Daniel Poynter, Executive Director and Founder of CNI?] <https://www.carbonneutralindiana.org/> ; <https://www.facebook.com/carbonneutralindiana> – Nancy hopes to revive this effort in the spring.
- D **Opportunity to Set Sustainable/Resilience Goals and Actions:** [Based on our Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory of 2019, we would work collaboratively with NWI Region Resilience--from which Kathy Sipple coordinated the completion of Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories for 9 municipalities and three countries in Northwest Indiana this summer--in partnership with Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC). It will be a lot less expensive working cooperatively than working individually with the Indiana University Resilience Cohort plus it would be regionally focused. Our's would have been completed Summer of 2020, yet support was not obtained from our Mayor, and COVID-19 made it challenging for those municipalities participating to engage their communities meaningfully.] – Nancy Moldenhauer explained that this would involve developing goals, measures, and actions directly related to our Green House Gas Emissions inventory. After some discussion, Andie Jahnz-Davis made a motion that this Commission collaborate with Northwest Region Resilience and Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission, under guidance of Kathy Sipple, to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. Faye Moore seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.
- E **"Caught You Being Green"**—Andie Jahnz-Davis [meeting with Ed Shinn, feature article on Nora L. Schultz posted, social media posts on holiday tips, Earth Day Extravaganza, April 2022, progress] –Andie Jahnz-Davis reported that the Nora L. Schultz feature was much shared. She asked for ideas for future features. Planning for Earth Day Extravaganza is in progress, at the Michigan City Public Library on April 23, probably from 12 NOON to 3 p.m. She also had a meeting with Ed Shinn regarding garbage in the parks, especially Washington Park Beach and parks with gardens.
- F **Action Alert:** Get signed up with Hoosier Environmental Council (HEC) to receive weekly and time sensitive actions via email for this 2022 Indiana State Legislative Session. Keep an eye on HEC's Facebook page for posts and updates also. So far, there are positive bills and negative bills already being introduced that we must monitor closely then contact our State Representative and Senator when needed to ensure another SAB 389, Anti-Wetlands Law, is not allowed to happen this year! – Nancy Moldenhauer urged us to follow and support 2 bills currently in the state legislature: HB 1335 by Pat Boy and Maureen Bauer, requiring complete cleanup of coal ash in Indiana, and SB 412 by Rodney Pol and Susan Glick with similar content. Both bills need to be heard in their respective committees. We are encouraged to contact the chairs of these committees asking for a hearing, Representative Mike Speedy phone at 317-232-9850 or email at h90@iga.in.gov, and Senator Mark Messmer phone at 317-232-9840 or email at s48@iga.in.gov.

- V Commission Comments – none
VI Public Comments – none

- VII Announcements – Tim Bauer announced a virtual event by Just Transition NWI on January 19. Nancy Moldenhauer announced a virtual training session by Hoosier Environmental Council the same date.
- VIII Adjournment – Daisy Lee made a motion to adjourn. Tim Bauer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.