

Commission on Sustainability



MICHIGAN CITY INDIANA

Tuesday, May 13, 2021, 5:30 pm
Zoom Meeting
Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chair Nancy Moldenhauer at 5:35 pm

- I Roll Call—Present were Nancy Moldenhauer, Tim Bauer, Angela Reynolds, Laura Henderson, Phil Kohler, Andie Jahnz-Davis, Daisy Lee, Tristan Bogart, Bailey Chavis. Absent were Clarence Hulse and Faye Moore. Guest Dalia Zygus was present. City Council liaison Bryant Dabney was absent.
- II Approval of Minutes, April 8, 2021—Tim Bauer moved and Andi Jahnz-Davis seconded approval of the minutes as submitted. The motion was unanimously approved.
- III Welcome New Liaison City Councilman Bryant Dabney; reappointment of Laura Henderson and appointment of La'Tonya Troutman to Commission—Welcome of Bryant Dabney deferred due to his absence. Andi Jahnz-Davis moved and Tim Bauer seconded that Laura Henderson be reappointed to the commission for two years. The motion was approved unanimously. Laura Henderson moved and Daisy Lee seconded that La'Tonya Troutman be appointed to the commission for two years. The motion was approved unanimously.
- IV Officer Election of Laura Henderson as Secretary, Andie Jahnz-Davis as Assistant Chair, and Nancy Moldenhauer as Chair; anyone else desiring to serve? --Chair Nancy Moldenhauer asked for any other nominations and there were none. Laura Henderson moved that Nancy Moldenhauer continue as Chair, Laura Henderson continue as Secretary, and Andi Jahnz-Davis take the position of Assistant Chair for one year. Daisy Lee seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- V Vote on approval to oppose SB 389, the Anti-Wetlands Bill—Andi Jahnz-Davis moved and Phil Kohler seconded that the commission opposes SB 389, the Anti-Wetland Bill. The motion carried unanimously.
- VI **Project Teams**
 - A **“Caught You Being Green”**—Andie Jahnz-Davis [article, campaigns, and Earth Month contest winners] —Sponsors who provided prize box items were Fiddlehead restaurant, Fish Camp restaurant, and Boathouse Grill, Green Housewives, Forged Curio, Krueger Middle School Environmental Program, and Yacht Brite. Winners were chosen by the student members of the Commission. Winners are Kilbourne family 1st prize, Pamela Bailey 2nd prize, and Adriana Hernandez-Marquez 3rd prize. Andie will arrange for delivery of prizes. Next features on Facebook will be Nora L. Schultz then Daisy Lee. Andie is starting to plan for next year’s Earth Day Extravaganza.
 - B **Biking, Hiking, and Walking Culture**—Phillip Kohler & Tim Bauer [proposed bicycle focused event, maybe a bike repair workshop or a city bike ride; vote on hosting an event]—Phillip and Tim are hoping to hold a bicycling pop-up event this summer either a city bicycle ride or provide instruction in basic bicycle maintenance. Andie moved and Daisy seconded approval for the event. The motion was approved unanimously, and Tim asked that any commissioners with suggestions about the event contact him or Phillip.
 - C **Carbon Neutral Indiana (CNI)**—Nancy Moldenhauer, Andie Jahnz-Davis, & Laura Henderson [Daisy Lee’s household is Carbon Neutral; 1st Anniversary of CNI last month; who needs to reschedule with Daniel Poynter, Founder of CNI]

<https://www.carbonneutralindiana.org/> ; <https://www.facebook.com/carbonneutralindiana> –Nancy reported that CNI recently celebrated its first birthday and has now expanded into Ohio. She urged those of us who are due for a review get it scheduled.

- D Solar United Neighbors (SUN)**—Nancy Moldenhauer [Zack Schalk, Indiana Program Director, hired Northern IN coordinator & possibly Round 2 this summer; 59 cooperative members with a 50-member goal in LaPorte (21), Porter (11), & Lake (22) Counties with a few from other counties (5); ZIP Codes: 46360 (8), 46350 (9)]--Nancy reported that there were 9 households above the goal of 50 for a total of 59 having signed up for the coop. Due to this strong response, we will probably have a repeat later this year.
- E Soul Power Project**—La'Tonya (Niki) Troutman, NAACP LaPorte County Unit 6031 [enrollment into training with certification (books, tools, shirts) extended; classes beginning in June due to graduating seniors' interest]--Nancy reported that the time for sign-up has been extended. Class has been rescheduled for June to allow those interested graduating high school students to participate. This is a pilot project, so it is hoped there will be a continuation. The current deadline is the end of May or the beginning of June. Beginning salary may be \$18/hour. Training is free with books, tools, and 2 t-shirts provided.
- F Indiana University Resilience Cohort for SolSmart Designation & Electric Vehicle Charging Station Plan**—Laura Henderson, Tristan Bogart, & Nancy Moldenhauer [Update on aiming for Silver Designation and EVC sessions]--Nancy reports we have handed to the consultant all needed information for SolSmart. Preliminary report on how many points we have so far has been received. We are pursuing Silver Designation at this time. Regarding the electric vehicle charging (EVC) plan, we are in the learning stage with many classes from Indiana University Resilience Cohort. We have completed our citywide EVC inventory and received a grant for 2 new EVC stations to be installed in the “goat parking lot” across from the Farmers Market. Next a fleet inventory will be conducted to then begin work on switching out some vehicles from diesel to electric.
- G Waste Reduction/“Garbology”**—Daisy Lee, Tim Bauer, Bailey Chavis, & Angela Reynolds [student expansion of recycling bins to all City Parks and initiation at Better World Day]--Angela Reynolds reported that there are now recycling bins in most Michigan City parks, and she got to cut the ribbon at Better World Day to celebrate the new bins, where all the 7th graders from Krueger and Barker Middle Schools participated. They learned about plastic pollution and picked up garbage in the parks. Daisy added that the plastic pollution theme was selected by the 7th graders and that they were instrumental in getting the City Parks Department to get the bins in the parks by producing a video. Currently all Michigan City parks except for Washington Park and Patriot Park have recycling bins. There is now signage to let people know what can be put in the recycling bins. Better World Day involved multiple partnering organizations--the Parks Department, the Police Department, the City Council, and the Michigan City Area School Board--which highlighted the contribution of the 7th graders in creating this change.
- H Nora L. Schultz Tribute Sustainability Award**—Tristan Bogart [first awardee Nora Ryszka and Mike Kilbourne, co-founders and leaders of The Great Michigan City Green Clean; waiting for photos to send press release; Tristan working on award certificate] –Tristan reported there are currently 2 sponsors with a possible third. A press release is in progress, as well as certificates. Daisy may be able to assist with the certificates.
- I Solar Power Options & Tesla Event**—Tristan Bogart [solar power sources and efficiency plus Tesla photo shoot]--Tristan shared information from the Valparaiso University Climate Change Symposium regarding energy needs and the huge supply of energy available from the sun. What is needed is a good way to store this energy, which is under development. He also reported on his Tesla photo shoot, where he enjoyed a ride in a Tesla. Even the hubcaps and door handles are designed for aerodynamic efficiency. The vehicle has no sound, all that is heard is the road. The batteries are placed very low in the vehicle which improves stability on quick turns. The mention of this product and the businesses above is not an endorsement of this Commission.

VII Board Comments—none

VIII Public Comments—none

- IX Announcements—7 in 1 recycling event at LaPorte Fairgrounds this Saturday 9 am to 2 pm, including styrofoam and tires. Nancy shared that Northwest Indiana Green Drinks on Thursday, June 3rd, will feature Mitch Barloga on creating a biking, hiking, and walking culture. We will learn about current trails and plans for future trails in our area.
- X Adjournment—Andie moved and Phillip seconded that we adjourn which was unanimously approved. Adjournment was at 6:36 pm.
- XI Next meeting--the 2nd Thursday of June, the 10th, at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laura Henderson
Secretary