

Commission on Sustainability



MICHIGAN CITY INDIANA

Thursday, July 8, 2021, 5:30 pm

City Hall, EOC Room (downstairs across from Council Chambers)

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chair Nancy Moldenhauer at 5:30 p.m.

- I Roll Call—Present: Faye Moore, Laura Henderson, Angela Reynolds, Bailey Chavis, Tristan Bogart, Tim Bauer, Nancy Moldenhauer, Daisy Lee, Phil Kohler, Andie Jahnz-Davis; multiple guests. Absent: La'Tonya Troutman, Clarence Hulse
- II Approval of Minutes, June 10, 2021—Andie Jahnz-Davis moved and Faye Moore seconded move for approval of minutes as submitted; all present voted in favor.
- III Welcome New Liaison City Councilman Bryant Dabney—deferred due to his absence
- IV Project Teams
 - A **Nora L. Schultz Tribute Sustainability Award**—Tristan Bogart & Nancy Moldenhauer [award presentation to Nora Ryszka and Mike Kilbourne, co-founders and leaders of The Great Michigan City Green Clean]--Nora Ryszka and Mike Kilbourne were presented with framed certificates of their award by Tristan Bogart and Nancy Moldenhauer. The annual award is named in memory of Nora L. Schultz who was well-known for picking up trash in Michigan City before her recent passing. Friends and families of the honorees and Nora Schultz were present for this ceremony.
 - B **"Caught You Being Green"**—Andie Jahnz-Davis [feature article, social media posts, Plastic-Free July, explore First Friday art or music (?) event, Earth Day Extravaganza 2022]--Our Facebook page this month has mini features, a feature on Nora L Schultz, and promotion of Save the Dunes plastic-free July. Andie has multiple exchange ideas to replace plastics with more sustainable alternatives. She continues to work on Earth Day 2022.
 - C **Biking, Hiking, and Walking Culture**—Phillip Kohler & Tim Bauer [bicycle repair at Charles R. Westcott Park and ride along the new Singing Sands Trail to end at the Taste of Michigan City]-- Proposed biking event on August 7 will feature a short bicycle maintenance workshop and a group bike ride on the new Singing Sands Trail. The flier has been created but still needs some minor editing; next is getting approval from Board of Works followed by publicity.
 - D **Carbon Neutral Indiana (CNI)**—Nancy Moldenhauer, Andie Jahnz-Davis, Laura Henderson & Daisy Lee, ["friendly competition" between Tryon Farms, Shoreland Hills, and other neighborhoods (?) this summer and fall for subscribers; who needs to reschedule assessment with Daniel Poynter, Founder of CNI] <https://www.carbonneutralindiana.org/> ; <https://www.facebook.com/carbonneutralindiana> --Nancy invited others to join the competition to get people to join CNI, and recognized the commissioners who have already joined.

- E Soul Power Project**—La'Tonya (Niki) Troutman, NAACP LaPorte County Unit 6031 [classes to begin this summer]--The class has been delayed due to the withdrawal of one of the funding partners, but it is expected to resume soon.
- F Indiana University Resilience Cohort for SolSmart Designation & Electric Vehicle Charging Station Plan**—Laura Henderson, Tristan Bogart, & Nancy Moldenhauer [Update on Silver Designation & Electric Vehicle Charging Station Plan]-- Sue Downs has completed the video training, we await email to document that; Tristan and Nancy have gone through a large stack of documents at city hall and have gathered documentation for all city buildings with solar panels along with kilowatt hours to submit. We still need a “landing page” on the Michigan City web site for all things solar. Nancy is communicating with Kaleb Godwin regarding the “landing page”. When these are completed, we should qualify for silver designation from SolSmart. Nancy requested a motion to allow her to ask the city for \$600 in the annual budget to continue our relationship with IU’s Environmental Resilience Cohort in 2022. Daisy made the motion and Laura seconded it; all voted in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.
- G Solar Power Options**—Tristan Bogart [solar panel array fields/farms update; to introduce plan for city buildings as part of American Rescue Act Funding granted to municipal government]--Tristan and Nancy are gathering information that they hope to present at one of the city’s workshops on the American Rescue Act funding, with a goal of making city buildings free of power plant generated electricity.
- H Waste Reduction/“Garbology”**—Daisy Lee, Tim Bauer, Bailey Chavis, & Angela Reynolds [city park recycling update]--Daisy explained that all Michigan City parks with the exceptions of Washington Park and Patriot Park now have recycling bins. They are working on a plan for those 2 parks. Bins were vandalized in 2 parks, so they are considering what may work best in those parks. They are exploring grants to fund better options.
- I Solar United Neighbors (SUN)**—Nancy Moldenhauer [Consult with Zack Schalk, Indiana Program Director, Dan Robertson, Northern IN Coordinator, & Kathy Sipple, 219 GreenConnect, resulted in Round 2 scheduled to launch Sept. and Oct.]--Nancy was pleased to announce that her household will be getting solar panels through this program soon. This spring round has resulted in 6 households getting solar panels.
- J Clean Removal of Coal Ash from NIPSCO Michigan City Generating Plant**—[Besides the clean removal of the coal ash from the ponds, Just Transition NWI is demanding that the mixed fill—sand, soil, and coal ash be completely removed from the NE corner of the property also; launched petition and drive last weekend at a public viewing of "In the Water"]--Nancy urged us to consider signing the petition as mentioned above and copied below. Just Transition NWI, Hoosier Environmental Council, and Earth Justice have collaborated on urging NIPSCO to remove the mixed fill which includes toxic coal ash. Nancy read the brief petition. Faye Moore moved that we sign the petition as the Commission, Tim Bauer seconded, and all voted in favor. Andie Jahnz-Davis moved and Laura Henderson seconded that we request a resolution by the City Council in favor of the intent of the petition. All voted in favor, none opposed.

"We, the undersigned, do hereby request that you ensure a clean closure at the Michigan City Generating Station through the full removal and cleanup of all the onsite coal combustion residuals (CCR), including in both the ash ponds and fill along the lakefront. We ask that you revise your CCR plan and account for this request during your integrated resource planning process."

- V Board Comments**—Andie said that she had t-shirts from Nicki Schultz (daughter of Nora Schultz) for all members of the commission. Faye mentioned that people can apply for the Soul Power training by going to the NAACP

local branch website. Tentative starting date is July 30. She further shared that the state NAACP is looking into solar panel promotion throughout the state as well as encouraging training for jobs in this field. She shared that her NIPSCO bill this month was \$53.

VI Public Comments--none

VII Announcements—Tristan announced that he will have been with the commission for one year as of July 11. Nancy thanked him for the work he has done toward the SolSmart designation. Faye announced that Walker Street Community Garden will have free Farmer’s Market at 11 a.m. this Saturday. Nancy announced NWI Green Drinks will be 6:30 p.m. on Thursday August 5 featuring Nora Ryszka and Mike Kilbourne of Great Michigan City Green Clean, via Facebook Live or Zoom. She also announced Monday Morning Beach Clean each Monday 8-10 a.m. at Washington Park Beach in Michigan City.

VIII Adjournment—Laura moved and Tim seconded for adjournment. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laura Henderson, Secretary