



**Little Rock Sustainability Commission
Minutes of Meeting for January 25, 2019 at 11:30pm
Willie L. Hinton Neighborhood Resource Center**

1. Chair Neil Gillespie called the meeting to order at 11:35 pm. A quorum was present.
2. **Attendance**
 - a. **Commissioners Present (those who applied to join commission):** Neil Gillespie, Randy Pierce, Linda K. Smith, Karen Zuccardi, Niki Evansington, Uta Meyer, Rachel Furman, Ron Hughes, Andrew Jester, Micah McLain, Casey Shepard, Brittany Nichols, Michael DeAngelis, Grant Deusing
 - b. **Board of Directors Liaisons Present:** Director Peck, Director Webb.
 - c. **Guests Present:** Patrina Robinson, Kay Kay DeRossettee, Bruce McMath, Sylvia Blain, Alex DePriest
 - d. **Staff Present:** Faith Mullins, Staff Liaison, Melinda Glasgow, Sustainability Officer.
3. **New Business:**
 - a. Review of accomplishments, working projects, and challenges. The commission completed an overview of the Sustainability Commission's past projects, current projects, future projects, and challenges to implementation and completion of goals. See pages 2 – 4 or worksheet.
4. **Next Meeting-** February 22, 2019 at 11:30 at Willie L. Hinton Neighborhood Resource Center.

Important Dates:

February 20, 2019	Sustain the Rock Nominations due
March 2, 2019	Open Data Day, Hinton Center, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
March 9, 2019	City Wide Cleanup, Baseline Community Center
March 28, 2019	Little Rock Sustainability Summit, Robinson Center

**City of Little Rock
2019 Board and Commission Overview**

Board or Commission name: Little Rock Sustainability Commission (LRSC)

*Initiatives of the [LRSC](#) are guided by the [2020 Roadmap](#).

Top Accomplishments or Ongoing Initiatives*	Top Challenges 2019 to 2021*
1. Passage of Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) ordinance in 2015 (Ord. No. 20,986)	1. Need BoD or Mayor’s Office decision on 3 possible next steps. Proposal coming soon from LRSC. 1. Repopulate LR PACE Board & secure 3 rd party administrator. 2. Create an interlocal agreement with Pulaski County. 3. Leave PuCo PACE as the only program for LR.
2. CLR Building Services has a successful history of installing LED’s and motion sensors in facilities and utilizing rebate programs. Next step is to scale up to targeted energy efficiency (EE) projects. City Hall and Central Fire Station are worst performing buildings in their class across the entire country. LRSC is starting energy tracking first quarter 2019.	2. Begin monthly tracking and benchmarking of city facility utility usage. Limiting factor for tracking and benchmarking has been time availability and data accessibility. Identifying funding for improvement projects will be the limiting factor to improving energy efficiency at City Hall and other facilities.
3. The LRSC Energy Committee supports development of a revolving energy fund at the City.	3. Internal support.
4. Passage of ordinance requiring energy labeling and testing of new homes for duct leakage and air tightness. Testing addresses health and safety issues and better enforces our mechanical codes. Since ordinance passed all HVAC companies in LR have received training.	4. 2018 Ordinance only requires testing on expensive foam insulation and not on more affordable fiberglass insulation. Update ordinance to include testing on all types of insulation for new builds to protect buyers of lower-cost homes and affordable housing. Update ordinance to include energy label requirement to help buyers shop for the most energy efficient home.
5. In 2018 the LRSC assisted with a pilot streetlight canvass (lights on campaign) in lieu of progress on converting streetlights to LED.	5. Streetlight tariff with Entergy and Public Service Commission (PSC) set up such that LED streetlights are twice the cost of less efficient high pressure

Board or Commission:

Top Accomplishments or Ongoing Initiatives*	Top Challenges 2019 to 2021*
	sodium bulbs. Need to re-negotiate tariff structure with PSC. Also need to evaluate City's streetlight plan to see if installation of high tech streetlights could help assist LRPD and LRFD.
6. LRSC will strive to work with Fleet Department in 2019 to evaluate purchasing policies in order to increase percentage of alternative fuel vehicles in CLR fleet.	6. Potential challenges include funding for alternative-fuel vehicles, expertise in choosing proper alternatives, and buy-in from City decision makers.
7. Supported passage of Complete Streets ordinance in 2015. Ordinance No. 21,029. LRSC strives to help the CLR create a culture within and outside the City that equally prioritizes transit, pedestrian, car, and bicycle mobility and access.	7. Allocate street funds consistent with a commitment to Complete Streets. Redevelop Master Street Plan to better reflect priorities of Ordinance. Improve process surrounding decision-making in road projects to better include staff who can speak to bicycle, transit, and pedestrian concerns. When ranking resurfacing projects consider the need to link piecemeal bike facilities and disconnected pedestrian corridors.
8. Improve alternative transportation (long-term goal). LRSC was a strong supporter of the process to secure a bike share provider. LRSC will continue to support the development of a bike share program.	8. Evaluate our sidewalk network and prioritize projects that can link disconnected pedestrian corridors. Change zoning code to eliminate mandatory parking minimums. Create standards and benchmarks for pedestrian infrastructure within the city (starting with a survey of existing pedestrian infrastructure, and ADA compliance, citywide)
9. The Sustain the Rock Awards have been a successful initiative of the LRSC. The awards bring new businesses and individuals to the table every year. Next step is to develop a sustainable business training program to increase eligibility for the award program.	9. Development and implementation of a sustainable business training program is hindered by staff resources and outside support.
10. Improving Residential Recycling is a priority for the LRSC over the next two years.	10. Support for and research of innovative solid waste solutions is needed for long-term improvement.

Board or Commission:

Top Accomplishments or Ongoing Initiatives*	Top Challenges 2019 to 2021*
	Additional guidance from Mayor's Office is needed to solve apartment complex recycling dilemma.
11. Closing the Loop (completing the AR River Trail) is a priority for the LRSC over the next two years.	11. "Dillard's Gap" in the Arkansas River Trail is limiting factor.
12. Improving tree canopy is a long-term goal of the LRSC.	12. Performing tree canopy assessment/accessing existing tree canopy data. Support for new ordinances that grow and/or preserve tree canopy. Support for an increased focus on native species.
13. Successfully set up pilot food waste recycling program at UAMS in early 2016.	13. Expanding food waste recycling program to other businesses. Challenges: education, infrastructure, funding.
14. Ban collection of yard waste in plastic bags (2019 goal)	14. Inclusion in solid waste rate study, political support for change, educating public on benefits and feasibility.
15. Fresh2You mobile market has been a strong success since development in partnership with AR Hunger Relief Alliance and Mosaic Church of LR.	15. Need to continue promoting and providing support.
16. Fourche Creek Recreation and recognition as our City's most important waterway is increasing. In 2017 the Fourche Creek became Arkansas' first Urban Water Trail. In 2018 a new boat ramp was installed at Benny Craig park.	16. Continue to educate public on importance of Fourche Creek (reduces flooding during massive rain events and provides habitat to a variety of unique species). Implement innovative, effective infrastructure solutions to halt the massive accumulation of trash & other pollutants. Find ways to end illegal dumping along Fourche Creek and in Fourche Bottoms.