



Little Rock Sustainability Commission

Minutes of Meeting for May 29, 2020 at 11:30am

Webex Virtual Meeting

1. Chair Karen Zuccardi called the meeting to order at 11:35 am. A quorum was present.
2. **Attendance:**
 - A. **Commissioners Present:** Jan Baker, Linda Bell, Michael DeAngelis, Grant Duensing, Niki Evansingston, Rachel Furman, Ron Hughes, Andrew Jester, Uta Meyer, Randy Pierce, Malik Saafir, Casey Shepard, Karen Zuccardi
Commissioners Absent: Michael Nichols
 - B. **Guests Present:** Scott Hamilton, Ellie Young, Dennis Wightman
 - C. **Staff Present:** Melinda Glasgow – Sustainability Officer, Lennie Massanelli – Sustainability Educator
3. **Approval of Minutes from February 28, 2020 meeting:**
DeAngelis made a motion to approve last meeting's minutes. Jester seconded the motion. All Commissioners approved.
4. **New Commissioners welcome:**
Linda Bell, retired teacher
Malik Saafir, https://greenfaith.org/malik_saafir
So good to finally “meet” you both!
Board voting on final Commissioner position has been deferred until July 2020
5. **Sustainability during a pandemic:**
 - Furman – increase conversation around sustainability
 - a) How create narrative?
 - b) Envision what a good life looks like, quality of life
 - c) Rebuild economy – how is sustainability involved?
 - d) Inventory problems and solutions

6. Sustainability in Little Rock

- Jester – Bruce McMath – news article: Cities seen as lacking in lighting standards
<https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2020/jun/01/cities-seen-as-lacking-in-lighting-standards/>
- DeAngelis – we need to talk about 2025 and Beyond Action Plan and projects
 - a) What is tangible now? (e.g., the radio show series)
 - b) Newly appointed Commissioners are encouraged to attend committee meetings in order to find the one(s) that most fits their interests
 - c) Voiced concern about Commissioners' motivation to work on long term goals, in light of ongoing pandemic
- Zuccardi agrees that short term goals would be most effective for the time being
- Zuccardi will send out final bylaws draft to all Commissioners to review for a vote at upcoming LRSC meeting
- Hughes spoke with Jamie Collins, Director of Planning & Development, about requiring all new houses to comply with energy ratings. New energy codes for the state will be discussed in spring 2021 State Legislature.

7. Commission and committee projects – process for implementation and approval

DeAngelis – committees should vet all ideas that would require action through the Commission first

Zuccardi – committee members should vet all ideas that would require action through committee chairs first, then through Commission

Furman – lack of coordination is a problem in representing the Commission

Zuccardi – suggested a task force be created to make an official process and procedure, resulting in said task force to work on finalizing the Commission's bylaws.

Bylaws Task Force:

- Niki Evansingston
- Andrew Jester
- Karen Zuccardi
- Glasgow and Massanelli provided city staff support
- Director Webb provided support

8. Committee Reports:

Energy – Andrew Jester, chair

Met through Zoom on Tuesday, May 5th @ 5 p.m.

To meet through Zoom on Tuesday, June 2nd @ 4 p.m.

- Energy street lights report – tariff doesn't allow complete LED transition

- Jester cited a disconnect between 311 and Entergy

Environment – Michael DeAngelis, chair

Meeting through Zoom on Monday, June 22nd @ 6:00 p.m.

- **DeAngelis asked Commission to vote on changing committee name to ‘Environment, Health & Wellness’**
- **Jester seconded motion**
- **All commissioners were in favor**

Waste & Reduction – Randy Pierce, chair

Next meeting time, date, and details will be sent out after Pierce checks in with committee members

- Pierce cited impact of global oil market collapse on plastics industry
- Pierce cited pandemic impact on recycling:
 - a) Paper market has spiked in recycling prices, shredding is down 72%
 - b) Volume of total recycling at Natural State down 30%

Education and Community Outreach – Niki Evansingston, chair

Meeting through Zoom on Tuesday, June 9th @ 6:00 p.m.

- Evansingston is in talks with Dana Dossett, Director of Community Programs for the City of Little Rock, to see about getting sustainability curricula in all City funded after and out-of-school programs. Talks will resume in July
- Evansingston is working on using the mobile Application Anchor to continue the radio show since we could not get into the studio but that was put on hold

Transportation – Rachel Furman, interim chair

- Furman has asked to step down as interim
- Commission needs new chair for Transportation Committee

9. Next virtual LRSC meeting will be on the June 26th.

Webex details will be made public later this month, and emailed to Commissioners, committee members, Directors Peck and Webb, and residents on LRSC mailing list.

Meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Minutes taken by Lennie Massanelli