



Little Rock Sustainability Commission

Minutes of Meeting for August 28, 2020 at 11:30am

Webex Virtual Meeting

1. Chair Karen Zuccardi called the meeting to order at 11:30 am. A quorum was present.
2. **Attendance:**
 - A. **Commissioners Present:** Jan Baker, Katharine (Kay Kay) DeRossette, Grant Duensing, Niki Evansingston, Rachel Furman, Ron Hughes, Andrew Jester, Uta Meyer, Randy Pierce, Malik Saafir, Casey Shepard, Karen Zuccardi
Commissioners Absent: Linda Bell, Michael Nichols
 - B. **Guests Present:** Chris Flores, Julie Rhodes, Mayor Scott, Scott Hamilton, Maria Lima, Chris Pavlicek
 - C. **Staff Present:** Melinda Glasgow – Sustainability Officer, Lennie Massanelli – Sustainability Educator, John Landosky – BikePed Coordinator
3. **Approval of Minutes from July 24, 2020 meeting:**
Zuccardi made a motion to approve last meeting's minutes. Jester seconded the motion. All Commissioners approved.
4. **Committee Reports:**

Energy – Andrew Jester, chair

Power Point presentation: "Building Energy Study"

- Less than 25% of pie chart is building costs – presentation focuses only on building energy usage
- Jester and Zuccardi walked Commission through several city facilities and how they're performing
 - ✓ City buildings that are doing well
 - ✓ Emphasized opportunities to improve
 - ✓ Savings projections

Mayor Scott thanked LRSC and LRSO for their work and asked Zuccardi and Glasgow to provide him with Commission goals.

Furman encouraged committee to think about measuring intensity besides square footage – other variables, like weather.

Zuccardi reported that the Director liaisons are working with the Energy committee in order to bring the presentation to the Board of Directors

Environment, Health and Wellness – Uta Meyer, chair

- Fourche Creek Watershed Management Plan, update (Meyer) – more data needs to be collected – working with UALR group to collect data
- USDA grant to support community gardens, update (Holly Anderson) – Though we did not get the grant, will be looking into other options:
 - ✓ Blue & You Foundation grant (nutrition)
 - ✓ AR Natural Resources Division (part of Agriculture Department)
- Top Golf, update – seeking the task force recommendations for usage of that space
- Arkansas Natural Yards – Nature at Home certification program, Janet Lanza and Lynn Foster

Next EHW meeting on September 21 @ 6:00 pm

Waste & Reduction – Randy Pierce, chair

- In light of the pandemic and many other changes affecting Solid Waste this year, we're moving the proposal to remove plastic bags from yard waste collection to a 2021 goal
- Pierce will craft an email to City of Little Rock regarding a possible free landfill day, the goal of which is to reduce litter and illegal dumping. Email can be reviewed for approval by Commission at September meeting.

Education & Community Outreach – Niki Evansingston, chair

- Will we be restarting the LRSC newsletter? Committees should discuss if this is something they could provide content to periodically. Further discussion needed, as a Commission
- October 12th – after school programs resume, EPA environmental content to be included
- Radio Show - The first recording of the LR Sustainability Hour took place on August 19, 2020. Niki emailed commissioners with timeline options for content submissions for their committee's radio show over the weekend of August 15th/16th. Valerie Pruitt, an ECO committee member, hosted the first show.

Next meeting is Tuesday, September 8 @ 6:00 pm

Transportation – Kay Kay DeRossette, chair

- Rock Region Metro bus tour on hold right now – possibly October tour
- Safe Routes to Parks - Jonesboro Drive between Children's Library, Little Rock Zoo, and War Memorial Park

- ✓ The “pop-up” temporary bike and pedestrian lanes on Jonesboro Drive will be between 12th Street, Zoo Drive, and S. Monroe Street. The set up will take place on Saturday, September 19, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help with setting up signage and cones.

5. Little Rock Sustainability Office staff reports:

- Energy – National Drive Electric Week, Sept 26-Oct 4 – EV Parade on 9/26, Zoom webinars on 9/28, 9/29, 9/30 www.todayspower.com/dew for more details
- Environment, Health & Wellness – Fourche Creek Watershed Management Plan – contacted environmental attorney to help sort out the obstacles to moving forward with this plan
- ECO – LRSO interviewed for first radio show in series of 6. Commissioner Hughes was also interviewed via call-in
- Transportation – Contacted Director Webb regarding Slow Street possibilities in Hillcrest neighborhood
- Waste & Reduction – LRSO suggests LRSC consider participation in Adopt-A-Street program – helpful to community as well as name recognition, #TrashDash2020 is on Sunday, September 20 – this is a nationwide cleanup effort with free registration on Keep America Beautiful website
- **Bylaws Update** – City Attorney Tom Carpenter will attend September LRSC meeting to go over bylaws and answer questions.
 - ✓ Evansingston – Section 4 – 15 minutes for Citizen Input at beginning or end of monthly Commission meetings?
 - ✓ Zuccardi sent Commissioners a link to Robert’s Rules of Order introduction and asked the Commission to have patience with her and others as we all become more familiar with this process
 - ✓ Any Commissioner who wants to communicate with employees of the City of LR as a representative of LRSC must first contact Chair Zuccardi and LRSO and copy both Chair and Office on that communication

6. Citizen input

- Chris Flores advocated for more EV charging stations in Little Rock and is looking forward to National Drive Electric Week activities at end of September

Next virtual LRSC meeting will be on Friday, September 25th, 2020 @ 11:30 am.

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Minutes taken by Lennie Massanelli