



CARBONDALE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Thursday October 19th, 2023 - 5:00PM

Carbondale Civic Center – Room 103
200 S. Illinois Avenue, Carbondale IL

MINUTES

Voting Members:

	Present	Absent	Comment
Treesong (Chair)	x		
Aur Beck (Vice Chair)	x		
Jane Cogie	x		
Kevin Clark		x	Excused
Sarah Heyer	x		
Yoonseo Jung (Student)		x	
Isaac Ludington (Student)	x		
Gayle Klam	x		
Joan Davis		x	Excused

Ex Officio Members:

	Present	Absent
Vacant		

City Staff:

	Present	Absent
Lauren Becker (Staff Liaison)	x	

Community Members Present: Tom Esposito, Tom Grant, Becca Sullivan, Aryk Sullivan

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call** (5:05pm)
2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** September 21st, 2023 (J. Cogie moved, Vice Chair Beck seconded)

S. Heyer provided a correction to the spelling of the names of the community members present.

3. Citizen Comments and Questions

Community member Tom Esposito brought to the Commission concerns surrounding (1) the use of two-stroke leaf blowers and gasoline-powered equipment within city limits and (2) the idling of vehicles at inefficient traffic stops in city limits. T. Esposito shared that he is particularly concerned about carbon emissions, but in addition the “noise is maddening”. In regards to vehicle idling “every little bit of fuel adds up”

Vice Chair Beck shared that many of the roads we see significant traffic on are State roads, which gives us less direct power over their design. “We can request, but it is the State who maintains and controls those routes.”

J. Cogie shared that communities are taking action on idling, especially surrounding schools.

Chair Treesong brought the conversation back to “what the Sustainability Commission has direct control over”.

There was general and resounding consensus that the Mill Street intersection is unsavory.

Community member Tom Grant brought up the potential of artificial intelligence being applied to traffic control measures.

Liaison Becker shared that transportation and mobile sources make up 30.6% of the annual community-scale CO2(e) for the City of Carbondale, and is the second largest slice of our carbon emissions pie.

Liaison Becker brought up the use of buyback or rebate models in other Illinois communities to provide incentive to folks who might be interested in converting their lawncare equipment to electric, but it requires funding.

T. Esposito encourages the Commission to explore a zero tolerance policy, where two-choke leaf blowers are not allowed within city limits.

Commission agreed that the next step is to explore what funding is available and how the program would be administered.

4. Presentations (None)

5. Report of Officers, Committees, and Communications

- a. Sustainability Coordinator Monthly Progress Report (L. Becker, attached)

6. Old Business (None)

7. New Business

Discussion Surrounding Two-stroke Leaf Blowers (Above)

Discussion Regarding Climate Vulnerability Assessment

- Chair Treesong expressed he wants to see the community conduct a Climate Vulnerability Assessment
- Liaison Becker shared that a Climate Vulnerability Assessment is 100% the next step, and that the City has already begun this work with its recent success in securing a Delta Regional Authority grant to complete a Comprehensive Stormwater Master Plan

Discussion Regarding Electrification & Energy Efficiency Improvements

- Chair Treesong expressed he wanted to provide space to discuss strategy to increase access to energy efficiency improvements for our community
- J. Cogie provided a recap of the Clean Homes of the Future Southern Illinois Event, which was very well attended, and focused primarily on the transition from gas to electric appliances within our homes
- Liaison Becker shared that if they had to break down increasing energy efficiency down into five points, it would be these: Tighten requirements for landlords, Improve building code, Provide up front capital for these deep energy retrofits, Making sure contractors have the incentive to perform these improvements, and Making sure that our contractors doing the work have a workforce.
- Vice Chair Beck added that we don't have the appropriate auditing workforce to conduct evaluations
- J. Cogie shared the Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Proposals are due in December
- Liaison Becker shared that they shared the incubator memo with SIU Colleague James Matthias
- Liaison Becker shared that memorandums have been successful within the past calendar year
- There was consensus that the Commission would like to put forward a memorandum regarding energy efficiency

Discussion Regarding Chamber of Commerce Award

- Vice Chair Beck and Liaison Becker shared background surrounding the history of the Sustainability Chamber of Commerce Award, with particular attention to Commission bandwidth
- General comments were made regarding a need for structure of the award and simultaneous interest in encouraging sustainability improvements in our business community
- T. Grant recommended advertising the award on WDBX
- Liaison Becker shared the Communique does not run anymore
- Liaison Becker shared the Commission does not have a budget to create a physical award
- Vice Chair Beck agreed to serve as the lead on the award and provide a presentation on how the award will be administered next meeting (selection, advertising, plaque, etc.)

8. Announcements

- Vice Chair Beck shared that the Friends of the Shawnee is seeking a Chair, Vice-chair, and members

9. Adjournment (J. Cogie moved, Vice Chair Beck seconded 6:14pm)