



CARBONDALE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Thursday April 18th, 2024 - 5:00PM

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

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call**
- 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes:** March 21st, 2024
- 3. Citizen Comments and Questions**
- 4. Presentations**
- 5. Report of Officers, Committees, and Communications**
 - a. Sustainability Coordinator Monthly Progress Report (L. Becker, attached)
 - b. Former Koppers Wood Treatment Site Report (A. Beck)
- 6. Old Business**
- 7. New Business**
- 8. Announcements**
 - Southern Illinois University Green Fund Proposals may be accessed by contacting SIU Sustainability Office
 - 18 Green Fund proposals and 14 writing contest submissions were received
 - The Carbondale Sustainability Commission is invited to the Green Fund Ceremony at 3pm on April 22nd
- 9. Adjournment**

Voting Members:

	Present	Absent	Comment
Treesong (Chair)			
Aur Beck (Vice Chair)			
Jane Cogie			
Kevin Clark			
Sarah Heyer			
Yoonseo Jung (CCHS Student)			
Chaya Rice (SIU Student)			
Gayle Klam			
Joan Davis			

Ex Officio Members:

	Present	Absent
Vacant		

City Staff:

	Present	Absent
Lauren Becker (Staff Liaison)		

Community Members Present:



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MINUTES

Voting Members:

	Present	Absent	Comment
Treesong (Chair)		x	Excused
Aur Beck (Vice Chair)		x	Excused
Jane Cogie	x		
Kevin Clark		x	Not excused
Sarah Heyer	x		
Yoonseo Jung (CCHS Student)	x		
Chaya Rice (SIU Student)	x		
Gayle Klam	x		
Joan Davis	x		

Ex Officio Members:

	Present	Absent
Vacant		

City Staff:

	Present	Absent
Lauren Becker (Staff Liaison)	x	

Community Members Present: None

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call** (5:00, called to order by Commissioner Joan Davis, serving in Chair Treesong's stead)
- 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes:** February 15th, 2024 (G. Klam moved, C. Rice seconded)
- 3. Citizen Comments and Questions** (None)
- 4. Presentations** (None)
- 5. Report of Officers, Committees, and Communications**
 - a. Sustainability Coordinator Monthly Progress Report (L. Becker, attached)

Warm welcome to our newest SIU student representative, Chaya Rice!

Commission members requested further information surrounding (1) Opportunity for additional communication with Greater Egypt Regional Planning Commission Environmental Planner Kelsey Bowe, regarding the urban heat index pilot study; (2) The Village of Dowell's Department of

Commerce and Economic Opportunities' Energy Communities Transition Grant; (3) City funding for sustainability in the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

- b. Former Koppers Wood Treatment Site Report (A. Beck)

6. Old Business

Sustainability Commission Memorandum

Discussion was held surrounding (1) the scope of work and costs associated of an inventory of plant species within city-owned public parks, provided by Chris Benda, the Illinois Botanizer.

The Commission chose to amend the memorandum to reflect comments during the meeting, with unanimous consent.

S. Heyer moved to pass the amended memorandum. J. Cogie seconded. All voted in favor.

7. New Business

8. Announcements

J. Cogie reminded the Commission of Dr. Trent Ford, the Illinois State Climatologist's talk – to be held at 7pm at the Carbondale Township building.

S. Heyer reminded the Commission of the Keep Carbondale Beautiful tree sale, to be held Saturday at 8:30am at the Pavilion.

9. Adjournment (5:56pm, J. Davis ensured unanimous consent.)

The following will serve as my Sustainability Coordinator report of progress for the month of March 2024. As always, please don't hesitate to reach out with questions and comments.

Table of Contents:

1. Uncategorized Updates
2. Energy Sovereignty, Security, & Democracy Proposal
3. Comprehensive Stormwater Master Plan
4. Biodiversity Protections
5. City Sustainability Commission
6. Jackson County Communities LEAP Community Coalition
7. Carbondale's Cabinet for Children & Youth

Uncategorized Updates:

- Continued regular check-ins with Justin Harrell, SIU Facilities & Energy Maintenance
- Continued bi-weekly check-ins with Gary Williams, City Manager
- Continued regular check-ins with Wade Halva, Faith in Place
- Continued attending weekly "Federal Funding Fridays" and "Federal Funding Flurries" offered by the Midwest Climate Collaborative
- Continued attending monthly "Complete Streets" meetings, which stimulate interdepartmental collaboration toward well-designed cityscapes
- Continued regular "Synergy Meetings" held by Keep Carbondale Beautiful Executive Director Mike Baltz
- Continued regular check-ins with Aimee Lemrise, SIU Sustainability Director
- Continued collaborating with Fire Captain D.W. Presley to explore the retrofit of aging, forced-air gas heaters with more efficient and effective electric models.
- Coordinated a walkthrough of the Fire Station with Heartland Heating and Cooling (3/20)
- Attended the Illinois State Climatologist Trent Ford's presentation on climate change in Southern Illinois at Carbondale Township (3/21)
- Attended the Outdoor Economy Working Group (3/25)
- Met with Gary Williams, Laura Hagg, and Alaina Mendoza to discuss the placement of a YSEALI Fellow with the City of Carbondale (Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative) (3/26)
- Met with Kaprice Whittington of the Finance Department to discuss how to collaborate with Finance to capitalize on the Investment Tax Credit for the solar and geothermal investments made at the Southern Illinois Multimodal Station (3/28)

Energy Sovereignty, Security, & Democracy Proposal:

- Continued regular Clean Energy 2 Communities (C2C) Expert Match team (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory) bi-weekly check ins.
- Met with Brent Ritzel, community member and staff member of StraightUp Solar to gain perspective on the Energy Sovereignty, Security, & Democracy Proposal (3/1)
- Coordinated a brief check in with Gentry Higgins of the Pleiades Strategy, to discuss the potential of Pleiades providing communications and design support to the proposal (3/1)
- Conducted the first City of Carbondale, Village of Dowell check in to bring everyone back up to speed (3/4)

- Met with Aimee Lemrise, Angie Kuehl, John Groninger, and Rachel Miller to discuss the current SIU Composting system and potential opportunities for collaboration (3/4)
- Assisted the Village of Dowell in requesting a quote for rooftop solar from Brent Ritzel, in order to provide a baseline cost for their Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Energy Communities Transition Grant (3/5)
- Attended the Elective Pay Final Rules Stakeholder Webinar hosted by the IRS (3/5)
- Met with ICLEI Communications Director Anne Marie Cleary Rauker to discuss available climate communications support (3/6)
- Attended the Interagency Working Group (IWG) Webinar “Getting Started” (3/6)
- Attended the Energizing Rural Communities Prize Cohort Kickoff & Scoping Call (3/7)
- Coordinated a site visit for the Village of Dowell by Brent Ritzel with StraightUp Solar in order to provide them with a baseline cost to share with DCEO (3/8)
- Submitted the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant Application on behalf of the City of Carbondale, to support; (1) the creation of a strategic communications plan for the Energy Sovereignty Proposal by Pleiades Strategy, (2) 2025 Community-scale and Municipal-scale GHG Emissions Inventories by ICLEI, and (3) Community-scale Forecasts by ICLEI
- Submitted a Letter of Intent for the National Renewable Energy Lab’s Technical Assistance for pumped storage hydropower (3/28)
- Learned that our team has been selected for negotiation of the \$.5M Energy Future Grants Program (3/29)

Comprehensive Stormwater Master Plan:

- GIS Specialist Anthony Alonzi and Greater Egypt Water Planner Kelsey Bowe continued to collect and “clean” data, in addition to reviewing existing resources

Biodiversity Protections:

- Attended the Carbondale Parks & Recreation Small Group Master Plan Session (3/21)
- Drafted and finalized a formal consulting agreement between the City of Carbondale and Chris Benda, in order to prepare a plant species inventory, concurrent with the Carbondale Parks & Recreation Master Plan.
- Coordinated agreement between City Manager Williams and Chris Benda (3/28)

City Sustainability Commission:

- Held 3/21 meeting

Jackson County Communities LEAP Community Coalition:

- Attended the close-out session (3/7)
- Learned that our team has been selected for Communities LEAP Cohort 2
- Continued coalition sessions (3/28)

Carbondale Children’s Cabinet:

- General Meeting and Student Voice Impact Table (3/25)