CARBONDALE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
Thursday May 16th, 2024 - 5:00PM

Carbondale Civic Center – Room 108
200 S. Illinois Avenue, Carbondale IL

AGENDA

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1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**
2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** April 18th, 2024
3. **Citizen Comments and Questions**
4. **Presentations**

   Chaya Rice, SIU Student Representative
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**
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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Thursday April 18th, 2024 - 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	Excused
Kevin Clark		x	Excused
Sarah Heyer	x		
Yoonseo Jung (CCHS Student)		x	
Chaya Rice (SIU Student)	x		
Gayle Klam		x	Excused
Joan Davis	x		

Ex Officio Members:

	Present	Absent
Vacant		

City Staff:

	Present	Absent
Lauren Becker (Staff Liaison)	x	

Community Members Present: Laurel Toussaint

Unapproved

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call** (5:09pm)

2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** March 21st, 2024 (J. Davis moved, S. Heyer seconded, Chair Treeson ensured unanimous consent)

3. **Citizen Comments and Questions**

   L. Toussaint commented that there will be a public meeting on Parks & Recreation April 30th at 5pm at the Carbondale Civic Center and encouraged commissioners to attend.

4. **Presentations** (None)

5. **Report of Officers, Committees, and Communications**
   a. Sustainability Coordinator Monthly Progress Report (L. Becker, attached)

The Commission celebrated the City's success in securing both the $.5M Energy Future Grant Program funding and the Communities-LEAP Cohort 2 Technical Assistance.

Vice Chair Beck requested an amendment to the March Progress report to clarify that L. Becker did not specifically recommend StraightUp Solar as an installer for the Village of Dowell.

J. Davis shared that she has connected with the SIU Sustainable Medical Group, and has been invited to speak on their podcast about the work of the Sustainability Commission.

Discussion was held on how to dissuade the use of traditional lawn care equipment (residential and commercial). S. Heyer and J. Davis agreed to workshop recommendations to bring before the Commission.

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

6. Old Business

7. New Business

8. Announcements

- SIU Green Fund Proposals may be accessed by contacting SIU Sustainability Office
- 18 Green Fund proposals and 14 writing contest submissions were received
- The Sustainability Commission is invited to the Green Fund Ceremony at 3pm on April 22nd
- Vice Chair Beck is seeking K-12 teachers for an Illinois Solar on Schools Class April 27th. They will receive a $100 stipend and national recognition for their service in support of STEM education.
- J. Davis shared that April 26th and 27th will be the Hunger Sale, held at University Mall.

9. Adjournment (6:09pm, S. Heyer moved, Chair Treesong ensured unanimous consent)

Unapproved

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)