



# City of Lawrence

## SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD

The purpose of the Sustainability Advisory Board is to advise the Governing Body of the City of Lawrence, Kansas, regarding issues affecting sustainability, environmental protection, waste reduction, recycling, energy conservation and natural resource conservation environmental protection.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- SAB recommends the Climate Protection Plan be elevated as a top priority in all City functions will be submitting a formal request to the City Commission.
- SAB will discuss policy recommendations regarding single use plastic bags at the May 8 meeting.

### MINUTES

**April 10, 2019 – 5:30 pm**

**MEETING LOCATION:** Parks and Recreation Administration Building in South Park, 1141 Massachusetts St, Lawrence, KS 66044

**Members present:** Jackie Carroll, Deb Ford, Ma’Ko Quah Jones, Allison Koonce, Rachel Krause, Jessi Lee, Tresa McAlhaney, Kira McPherson, Lei-Lei Mitchell, Michael Steinle

**Members not present:** none

**Staff present:** Jasmin Moore

**Public present:** several members of the public were present

- 1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** Determine quorum of members. 5:31 p.m.
- 2) Approve March meeting minutes with corrections.** Motion by Michael Steinle. Second by Jessi Lee. Motion Passed
  - a) Corrections: Change 2018 to 2019. Remove reference to buildings in the net zero energy goal.
- 3) Presentation: Climate Protection Plan and Greenhouse Gas Inventory Update,** Jasmin Moore, Sustainability Director
  - a) SAB received presentation. Slides are included following the minutes.
  - b) Motion by Michael Steinle to make the following recommendation to the City Commission. Second by Ma’Ko Quah Jones. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to recommend to the City Commission that the Climate Protection Plan be elevated as a top priority in all City functions and that a budget of \$100,000 be allocated to support research and updating of the Climate Protection Plan dated March 31, 2009 to include provisions for greater emission reductions and to

incorporate climate change adaptation. Further, the City Commission should adopt the following covenants relative to the plan:

1. Given the urgency of climate change, the budget allocation should be used over a period of no more than six months and work should begin immediately upon approval of the City Commission;
2. The Climate Protection Plan should focus on actionable steps that can be taken during a ten year horizon to continue to reduce green-house gas emissions and to meet or exceed goals established in the previous plan;
3. Given the dynamic nature of climate change and the existential threat it poses to society, the Plan should be reviewed in full by the Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) annually and a full report should be provided to the City Commission;
4. In addition to full annual review, a SAB member or members should be appointed as stewards of the plan to support staff in implementation, monitoring, and management of the plan on an ongoing basis;
5. The Climate Protection Plan should be integrated at the department level in all capital improvement considerations and in the daily operations of all city functions;
6. As an additional step in addressing climate change and in reducing emissions, the City shall adopt a policy as soon as possible, and no later than December 2019, to achieve 100% use of renewable energy in all City functions by 2025; and
7. The City of Lawrence shall join the Metro KC Climate Action Coalition through participation of staff and/or SAB/Elected Officials to support a regional approach to climate protection.

These policies are strongly recommended by SAB as a recognition of the critical condition of our planet and the need to protect it for our children and future generations.

#### **4) Subcommittee reports**

- a) Single Use Plastics will present a policy recommendation to reduce plastic bags at the May 8 SAB meeting.

#### **5) SAB priorities and subcommittee structure.** Tabled until May 8 meeting.

#### **6) Staff Report**

- a) SAB members are invited to join a policy discussion lead by US Green Building Council regarding LEED buildings on April 11, 2019. Jackie Carroll indicated she is planning to attend the call.
- b) **Earth Day Parade and Celebration.** On Saturday, April 20, 2019, the City of Lawrence will host the 19th Annual Earth Day Celebration. Events include a parade hosted by KU Environs, South Park tree identification tours hosted by the Parks & Recreation Department and live music at the Gazebo. The purpose of the Earth Day Celebration is to gather community members to connect, discover, and celebrate local organizations and businesses who support a healthy, sustainable environment. At the same time, the Celebration engages event goers with fun activities and exhibitions.

<https://lawrenceks.org/earth-day/>

#### **7) Key takeaways to share with the City Commission**

- a) SAB recommends the Climate Protection Plan be elevated as a top priority in all City functions. SAB requests the City Commission take action immediately and will be submitting a formal request.
- b) SAB will discuss policy recommendations regarding single use plastic bags at the May 8 meeting.

#### **8) Future Agenda Items**

- a) Single Use Plastics (May)
- b) SAB priorities and subcommittee structure (May)
  - i) Discuss energy efficiency incentives for rentals
- c) 100% renewable energy goal (May)
- d) Water rate structure changes (summer)

#### **9) Member Updates**

- a) Michael Steinle: The Douglas County Food Policy Council, Aggies working group has recently expressed concerns about greenhouse gas emissions, and is interested in exploring carbon sequestration on farms.
- b) Ma'Ko Quah Jones: Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation- Community Earth Day Celebration, Sunday, April 21, 2019, 9:00-11:00 am at Prairies People's Park, 15400 M Road, Mayetta, KS. <https://www.pbpindiantribe.com/event/pbpn-community-earth-day/>

**10) Public Comment:** A local group recently started sewing reusable produce bags. They are partnering with several area grocery stores and will be giving away produce bags at the Lawrence Earth Day Event.

**11) Adjourn.** 7:40pm

#### **Next regular SAB meeting:**

May 8, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

Venue: Parks and Recreation Administration Building in South Park, 1141 Massachusetts St, Lawrence, KS 66044