



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.

MINUTES

July 2, 2019 – 5:00 pm

MEETING LOCATION: Flory Building, Douglas County Fairgrounds
2120 Harper Street, Lawrence, KS 66046

Members present: Jackie Carroll, Allison Koonce, Rachel Krause, Jessi Lee, Kira McPherson, Lei-Lei Mitchell, Michael Steinle

Members not present: Deb Ford, Ma’Ko Quah Jones

Staff present: Jasmin Moore, Helen Schnoes

Public present: About 30 members of the public were present

- I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Determine quorum of members. 5:00 p.m.
- II. Presentation by SAB Subcommittee on Single Use Plastics
 - a. Michael Steinle provided an overview of how the issue of single use plastics became a priority for the Sustainability Advisory Board.
 - b. Rachel Krause provided an overview of the research findings and recommendations regarding single-use bags.
- III. Public Comment
 - a. Eleven members of the public spoke about the proposed recommendation. Comments are summarized in the following table.

In support	In opposition	Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none">It’s a complicated issue, but we need to take action now.In support of the recommendation.In support, and we need dramatic action now. Need to go further and include all single use plastics. Shift responsibility upstream.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This is a regressive fee.Plastic bags should be banned completely. We are in a climate crisis. Need to take bolder action.Former owner of grocery store expected the meeting to be a question and	<ul style="list-style-type: none">There is a need for an upstream approach targeting industry instead of consumers.Would like SAB to rethink the approach to distributing reusable bags. What does low-income programming mean? What about other single-use plastics?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In support of a ban, Concerned about monetizing the bags. • In support of the fee model. In support for subsidizing for low income residents. • In support, and hopes there is an incentive to help those who can't afford this. 	<p>answer session.</p> <p>Plastics bags distributed by grocery stores are made of 25% recycled bags. Felt like grocery stores were singled out. What about restaurants, other retailers? What should happen when someone needs additional bags, but can't afford them?</p>	
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IV. Discussion and Action: [Single Use Plastics Subcommittee research and policy recommendation to reduce single-use plastic bags in Lawrence](#)

- a. Comments regarding proposed language. Additions are highlighted in yellow, deletions are struck through.

A proposed ordinance is recommended which will impose a \$0.16 per bag fee upon checkout and will apply to both single-use plastic and paper bags. Bags used to carry bulk items (such as fruits, vegetables, and nuts), raw meat, and seafood are exempt from charge. Additional provisions of the ordinance should include:

Retailors that offer single-use bags (those 4 mils thick and less) will have their purchase fee clearly displayed along with an educational flyer, provided by the city, explaining the rationale behind the bag fee;

Revenue collected from bag sales should be allocated to:

- Address administration and evaluation costs associated with the implementing the policy, including collecting baseline data six months prior to program initiation;
- Support local environmental education and environmental initiatives; and
- Support programming for low income Lawrence residents, **including access to reusable bags**

*An educational campaign ~~and reusable bag give away~~ should occur during the launch of the policy and will occur annually thereafter; **and***

the Sustainability Advisory Board should review the policy every ~~five years~~ 12 months to suggest updates and revisions, as necessary; and

~~Retailers are defined as any grocer or department store purveying goods to the general public.~~

Motion to approve the recommendation to City Commission by Michael Steinle, second by Jessi Lee. Motion passes.

V. Adjourn. 6:03 pm.

Next regular SAB meeting:

July 10, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

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