

# Commission on Sustainability



## MICHIGAN CITY INDIANA

Thursday, April 14, 2022, 5:30 pm

City Hall

Agenda

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of March 10, 2022 Minutes
- III. Project Teams
  - A. **Solar Power Options for City Government** —Tristan Bogart [solar panel array update; to introduce plan for city buildings as part of American Rescue Act Funding granted to municipal government; Nancy sent email to MC Planning & Inspection Dept. for assistance in identifying department ownership of properties]
  - B. **Funeral Homes & Crematoriums with Plant a Tree Opportunity:** Bailey Chavis [follow up with Greisen-Carlisle headquartered in Crown Point; post to share final list on social media as "Caught YOU Being Green" feature]
  - C. **Biking, Hiking, and Walking Culture** —Phillip Kohler & Tim Bauer [ride along the new Singing Sands Trail to be scheduled in the spring with MC Park & Recreation Department and Bike Stop partnership; announce date, time, beginning and destination]
  - D. **Adopt Carbon Footprint Reduction Goal for Michigan City:** Suggestion to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% in 2030. Discussion and vote.
  - E. **Acceptance of Sustainability/Climate Action Plan for 2020 – 2030:** Entertain questions and comments regarding the Sustainability/Climate Action Plan. Reviewed for mistakes by Officers. Includes an account of past programs and partnerships plus current projects and collaborations already voted on and approved by Commissioners unanimously.
  - F. **Consider Opportunity to Submit Expression of Interest:** Daniel Poynter, Executive Director of Carbon Neutral Indiana, has approached our Sustainability Commission about the chance to apply for a \$1 MILLION grant to accelerate the implementation of a city climate/sustainability action plan while addressing inequality. Potential funding from Google and ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability USA, Inc. (ICLEI USA) would advise chosen finalists of the opportunity to provide a full proposal by May 11th. There will be two awardees nationwide.
  - G. **Formal Representation on Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) Environmental Management Policy Committee (EMPC) as Member:** Kathy Luther, Director of Environmental Programs, inquired about someone serving from our Sustainability Commission in the place of Mike Kuss since he has left employment with the MC Sanitary District. Beside Nancy, is anyone interested in filling the position or being the back up? Take a vote.

- H. **Solar United Neighbors (SUN)** — [Round Two of cooperative membership ended on February 28th. Had 61 interested individuals signed up in the FREE cooperative. Seventeen (17) are in Michigan City. Satellite review and solar energy systems installer visit completed on 30. Site visit scheduled for 1. Proposal submitted to 9. Six (6) disqualified by installer. Opportunity lost on 6. Signed contract with 8. Cancelled contract of 1. Plans in the making for Round 3.]  
<https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/indiana/> ; <https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/indiana/go-solar/>
- I. **Indiana University Resilience Cohort for SolSmart Designation** —Laura Henderson, Tristan Bogart, & Nancy Moldenhauer [Awarded SolSmart Silver Designation with 115 points and presented plaque at MC Council Meeting; Share our new link "Getting Started with Solar" on Sustainability Commission website page.]  
<https://www.emichigancity.com/1214/Sustainability-Commission>
- J. **U.S Department of Energy National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL)** —Ed Shinn, Tristan Bogart, Daisy Lee & Nancy Moldenhauer [We are receiving FREE consulting, engineering, and planning services for solar array installation, electric vehicle charging stations, and electronic device chargers for workstations at Washington Park, Beach, and Zoo. We're had our second exploratory meeting on February 23rd. When completed, we will have a plan to submit for an extremely promising future with potential green energy funding to be provided by the Federal Government.]
- K. **Carbon Neutral Indiana (CNI)** —Andie Jahnz-Davis, Laura Henderson, Daisy Lee & Nancy Moldenhauer [Daniel Poynter, Executive Director, will be sending materials to Daisy Lee so hopefully Middle School Commissioners can person CNI's table at our Earth Day Extravaganza. Who needs to schedule an assessment or get an update with Daniel, Executive Director and Founder of CNI?] <https://www.carbonneutralindiana.org/> ;  
<https://www.facebook.com/carbonneutralindiana>
- L. **Setting Regional Sustainable/Climate Goals and Actions** —Nancy Moldenhauer, Laura Henderson, & Daisy Lee [We voted to work collaboratively with NWI Region Resilience and in partnership with Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC). Nancy signed up to serve on the NIRPC Task Force with Kathy Sipple.]
- M. **"Caught YOU Being Green"** —Andie Jahnz-Davis [Earth Day Extravaganza, Saturday, April 23rd, 2022, 12 – 3 pm, Michigan City Public Library, requesting nomination submissions for Nora L. Schultz Tribute Sustainability Award in July.]
- N. **INVITATION:** Just Transition NWI is hosting a community conversation event to come together to engage in their campaign and take action to "Protect Lake Michigan and Trail Creek" on Saturday, April 16th, 1 – 3 pm CT, at the MC Public Library. This is a free, family-friendly event with food and refreshments. Must register at Eventbrite so they can prepare: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/protect-lake-michigan-and-trail-creek-community-conversation-event-tickets-305916513527?aff=NewsletterBlast&link\\_id=6&can\\_id=c24d05671c7767030eec8d5100d8b162&source=email-this-earth-month-join-us-in-saving-our-lake&email\\_referrer=email\\_1504991&email\\_subject=this-earth-month-join-us-in-saving-our-lake](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/protect-lake-michigan-and-trail-creek-community-conversation-event-tickets-305916513527?aff=NewsletterBlast&link_id=6&can_id=c24d05671c7767030eec8d5100d8b162&source=email-this-earth-month-join-us-in-saving-our-lake&email_referrer=email_1504991&email_subject=this-earth-month-join-us-in-saving-our-lake)

- IV. Commission Comments  
V. Public Comments  
VI. Announcements  
VII. Adjournment