

# Commission on Sustainability



## MICHIGAN CITY INDIANA

Thursday, September 14, 2023 4:30 pm  
City Hall, EOC Room Downstairs

### AGENDA

**Michigan City Sustainability Commissioners:** Tim Bauer (Assistant Chair), Michelle Basta, Laura Henderson (Secretary), Clarence Hulse, Andie Jahnz-Davis (Chair), Daisy Lee (Treasurer), Nancy Moldenhauer (Immediate Past Chair), Faye Moore, La'Tonya Troutman  
**Student Commissioners:** Tristan Bogart, Bailey Chavis, Angela Reynolds  
**City Council Liaison:** Bryant Dabney

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of August 11, 2023 Minutes
- III. Vote: **Appointment of Beverly Mack-Martin:** Commission vote to replace Clarence Hulse of the Michigan City Economic Development Corporation.
- IV. Project Teams
  - A. **Solar Power Options for City Government**—Tristan Bogart [Launch of Michigan City Electric Vehicle Charging Station Survey-update; solar panel array plan update for installation of solar panels at remaining city buildings, update on Zoom meeting from July 14, 2023 to discuss the next steps of solar for city government] [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScPTx-aul3nuiFc5bbM3cN9zgEzZ3UOym31tLjnj\\_mLpBjjVQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScPTx-aul3nuiFc5bbM3cN9zgEzZ3UOym31tLjnj_mLpBjjVQ/viewform)
  - B. **Electric Municipal Vehicle Project: Michigan City Police Department (MCPD) & Transit Department**—Tristan Bogart & Baily Chavis [Exploring the possibilities of adding electric vehicles to the MCPD fleet, contacting regional and national police departments, obtaining reports from department who have switched from combustion to electric, set up future meetings with those departments, contacting Zero Motocycles ]
  - C. **Homes & Crematoriums with Plant a Tree Opportunity:** Bailey Chavis [Thanks to Bailey's commitment and determination Geisen-Carlisle headquartered in Crown Point added "Plant a Tree" memorial option on their Michigan City and Crown Point websites; article for Facebook and press release]
  - D. **Waste Reduction/"Garbology"**—Daisy Lee, Tim Bauer, Bailey Chavis, Angela Reynolds, & Michelle Basta[update on the progress of pilot project in Washington Park Beach which would include fun, colorful recycling collection containers of native species, like frogs; explore IDEM grant for recycling projects up to \$100,000; collaborative effort with Sacha Gee Burn of LP Co. Solid Waste District, Shannon Eason of MC Parks & Rec Dept., and Robin Kohn of MC. Public Art Committee; contact within NIPSCO for potential funding will be approached when plan available; collaborative effort with Sacha Gee Burns for a "Re-Use Room", trading, borrowing, donating items to a communal or virtual location for public use; *Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory for carbon footprint reduction indicates Michigan City and NWI are extremely high for sending trash to landfills instead of practicing reduction and recycling* <https://www.in.gov/idem/recycle/resources/indiana-community-recycling-grant-program/> ]

- E. **Continue Promoting SolSmart Silver Designation with Partner Indiana University Resilience Cohort**— Laura Henderson, Tristan Bogart, Angie Reynolds, Andie Jahnz-Davis, & Nancy Moldenhauer [Nancy forwarded onto project team, from Senior Program Specialist Kelly Aves of National League of Cities, the score card for points broken down into (1) points verified, (2) points needed for Gold, and (3) points in progress to apply for Gold Designation in 2024; what could we do to continue leveraging SolSmart Silver Designation besides getting logo posted on Michigan City Government website?; keep sharing our link "Getting Started with Solar" found on Sustainability Commission Michigan City Government website page: <https://www.emichigancity.com/1214/Sustainability-Commission> ; <https://solsmart.org/news/soul-power-equitable-solar-workforce-development-in-michigan-city-indiana/> ]
- F. **Carbon Neutral Indiana (CNI)**— Andie Jahnz-Davis, Laura Henderson, Daisy Lee & Nancy Moldenhauer [Carbon Neutral Indiana's innovative book—entitled *Carbon Neutral Indiana: A Practical Guide to Climate Solutions*—available on line; who needs to schedule an assessment, get an update for home to become carbon neutral with subscription, or set up a monthly contribution with Daniel Poynter, Executive Director and Founder of CNI? <https://www.carbonneutralindiana.org/book> ; Order: <https://store.carbonneutralindiana.org/> ]
- G. **Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)**— Ed Shinn, Shannon Eason, Tristan Bogart, Bailey Chavis, Laura Henderson, Faye Moore, Nancy Moldenhauer, & Andie Jahnz-Davis [Tristan and Bailey to review Scott Belding's summary of various options we've considered from Nov. 2021 to Nov. 2022 for what considerations are missing; need to schedule a 7th meeting as a Task Force with our consultant Scott of NREL after September; continue to pursue solar array powered electric-vehicle charging stations in the planned newly reconfigured rectangular parking lot directly across from the zoo and work stations with electronic device charging work tables and/or benches around the park; *We are receiving FREE consulting and planning services for solar array installation, electric vehicle charging stations, and electronic device chargers for workstations/benches at Washington Park, Beach, and Zoo. When completed, we will have choices to create a plan to submit for an extremely promising future with potential green energy funds provided by the Federal Government.*]
- H. **Resilience Action Planning Work Group**— Nancy Moldenhauer, Laura Henderson, & Andie Jahnz-Davis [Kathy Sipple of Earth Charter Indiana is currently working with her intern from Indiana University--extended through December 2023--on community engagement and roll out of NIRPC's developed best practices and model programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; BIG ANNOUNCEMENT: Northwest Indiana became the first region in Indiana to become certified as a Wildlife Habitat with National Wildlife Federation!; next municipalities and counties may enroll more individuals, schools, churches, businesses, and parks to obtain the same certification locally]
- I. **Soul Power**— Donnita Scully, Faye Moore, & Nancy Moldenhauer [Solar Panel Installers NABCEP Certified—7 successfully completed with 2 who will not retest; NAACP LaPorte County Chapter preparing to host NAACP State Conference, November 2nd - 5th, thus most efforts have been redirected; grant being written for Professional Installers which requires service hours, can do survey and design work, could start own company; Donnita is actively seeking grant opportunities to install solar panels on roof of Hope Community Center; as with the first grant, Nancy will provide consultation services to strengthen submissions. *Job training and certification program for solar panel installation in partnership with NAACP LaPorte County, IBEW-531, Ivy Tech Valparaiso, WorkOne, Just Transition NWI, and MC Sustainability Commission*; interested individuals can sign up here for future offerings: <https://www.laportecountynaacp3061.org/soul-power-project> ]
- J. **Solar United Neighbors (SUN)**— Faye Moore & Nancy Moldenhauer [SUN Indiana has hired Indiana Program Associate Brian Flory in Fort Wayne; he is collecting names and contact information of interested persons for potential Round 3 of installation after NE Indiana has Round 1 at [bflory@solarunitedneighbors.org](mailto:bflory@solarunitedneighbors.org)]

K. **“Caught YOU Being Green” Engagement—**

1. Climate Leadership Summit 8, Sept. 8th, Indiana University Northwest, five Sustainability Commissioners attended—Faye Moore, Laura Henderson, Niki Troutman, Daisy Lee, and Nancy Moldenhauer; Nancy presented at two sessions—Northwest Indiana Regional Resilience Panel and Sustainability Commission Panel; the rock stars of the summit were Gary Office of Sustainability and Environmental Affairs, Michigan City Sustainability Commission, and NWI Region Resilience!

2. Drive Clean Indiana Annual Conference & Expo, Wednesday, Aug. 23rd, Blue Chip, nine people from Michigan City attended including Sustainability Commissioners—Michelle Basta, Andie Jahnz-Davis, Faye Moore, Tristan Bogart, and Nancy Moldenhauer, Beverly Mack-Martin and her friend Melloniece Pryor, City Planning Dept. Assistant Director, and Transit Dept. Assistant Director.

3. Northwest Indiana Green Drinks, *Carbon Neutral Indiana: A Practical Guide to Climate Solutions* book presentation, Daniel Poynter, author, Thursday, October 5th, 6:30 pm CT, Facebook Live on Save the Dunes page and Zoom; book selling at a discount beforehand; watch for event post on NWI GD FB page or sign up at Save the Dunes newsletter for notification: <https://savedunes.dm.networkforgood.com/forms/stay-connected>

4. Indiana Solar 101, Wednesday, October 11th, 6:30 - 8pm CT, Solar United Neighbors, Lake County Public Library, Highland Branch, 2841 Jewett Avenue, Highland, IN 46322; register for free here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/indiana-solar-101-highland-tickets-706192770587>

5. Earth Month Extravaganza, Krueger Memorial Hall, Saturday May 4, 2023

- V. **VOTE-** Allow elected officers of Michigan City Sustainability Commission (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer) to make decisions between meetings to sign onto letters and petitions with other organizations on behalf of our Commissioners regarding issues or policies that have been considered and voted in favor of previously.
- VI. Public Comments
- VII. Announcements
- VIII. Adjournment