

Commission on Sustainability



MICHIGAN CITY INDIANA

Thursday, January 12, 2023, 4:30 pm
City Hall, EOC Room Downstairs
Agenda

Michigan City Sustainability Commissioners: Tim Bauer, Laura Henderson (Secretary), Clarence Hulse, Andie Jahnz-Davis (Assistant Chair), Daisy Lee (Treasurer), Nancy Moldenhauer (Chair), Faye Moore, La'Tonya Troutman

Student Commissioners: Tristan Bogart, Bailey Chavis, Mary Cate Neary, Angela Reynolds

City Council Liaison: Bryant Dabney

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of December 8, 2022 Minutes
- III. Project Teams
 - A. **Solar Power Options for City Government**—Tristan Bogart [solar panel array plan update for installation of solar panels at remaining city buildings as part of American Rescue Act Funding granted to municipal government]
 - B. **Funeral Homes & Crematoriums with Plant a Tree Opportunity:** Bailey Chavis [update on contact with Geisen-Carlisle headquartered in Crown Point via written communication for adding "Plant a Tree" memorial option]
 - C. **Waste Reduction/"Garbology"**—Daisy Lee, Tim Bauer, Bailey Chavis, Angela Reynolds, & Mary Cate Neary [explore preparation and timeline for next round of IDEM grant for recycling projects up to \$100,000; forwarded "Goby" fish photos with descriptions from Asia to Lora Fosberg, Art Manager, to inspire ideas for an artist commissioned native fish sculpture to collect recyclable plastic bottles and aluminum cans at Washington Park Beach; collaborative effort with Sacha Gee Burn of LaPorte County 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; *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/>]
 - D. **Continue Promoting SolSmart Silver Designation with Partner Indiana University Resilience Cohort**—Laura Henderson, Tristan Bogart, Angie Reynolds, & Nancy Moldenhauer [desire to begin slow review of programs we may not have acquired points 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/>]

- E. **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*—is now available and can be ordered. Who needs to schedule an assessment, get an update for their home to become carbon neutral, or set up a monthly contribution with Daniel Poynter, Executive Director and Founder of CNI? About: <https://www.carbonneutralindiana.org/book> ; Order: <https://store.carbonneutralindiana.org/>]

- F. **U.S Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)**—Ed Shinn, Tristan Bogart, Bailey Chavis, Daisy Lee, Laura Henderson, & Nancy Moldenhauer [Our next step is to contact NIPSCO to begin planning process for various options discussed so far. Held our 6th meeting as a Sub-Task Force on November 22nd at the Washington Park Zoo with our consultant Scott Belding of NREL including Jamie Huss, Washington Park Zoo Director, Ed Shinn, Washington Park & Recreation Department Superintendent, and Nancy. We will continue to pursue solar array powered electric-vehicle charging stations in the planned newly reconfigured rectangular parking lot directly across from the zoo. *We are receiving FREE consulting, engineering, planning services for solar array installation, electric vehicle charging stations, and electronic device chargers for workstations 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 funding to be provided by the Federal Government.*]

- G. **NWI Climate/Resilience Action Planning Work Group**—Nancy Moldenhauer, Laura Henderson, & Andie Jahnz-Davis [Sixth meeting was held on Thursday, December 15th, 1 pm, via Zoom. Best practices and model programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a draft format were critiqued and expanded upon.]

- H. **Soul Power**—Donnita Skully & Faye Moore [NABCEP certification results from the November six-week Solar PV Associate training are 7 of the 9 passed the NABCEP the first time, other two failed by one and two points, both are scheduled to retake the exam and will probably pass the second time around; *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>]

- I. **Solar United Neighbors (SUN)**—Faye Moore & Nancy Moldenhauer [Last week, unfortunately the Indiana Supreme Court issued their decision upholding the CenterPoint’s no netting interpretation of the Excess Distributed Generation (EDG) net metering replacement, which the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) approved in 2021, full opinion below; Nancy attended the 2022 Indiana Solar Congress, December 10th, in person; Dan Robinson is collecting names and contact information of interested persons for potential Rounds of installation being offered in 2023 at d robinson@solarunitedneighbors.org ; Nancy’s solar panel installation was completed in December as part of Round 1]
https://public.courts.in.gov/Decisions/api/Document/Opinion?Id=cXVRn9I4RRuao6Alo0z2K0A1N5fw-Ckt_Co-Uav-jyv8MF9JXI8sz_6h2_6XWAIK0
<https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/indiana/> ; <https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/indiana/go-solar/>

- J. **“Caught YOU Being Green” Engagement**—Andie Jahnz-Davis & Tim Bauer [Upcoming social media posts; Update on Earth Month Extravaganza 2023, Saturday, April 29th, Krueger Memorial Hall]

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