

# Commission on Sustainability



## MICHIGAN CITY INDIANA

Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 5:30 pm  
Zoom Meeting  
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

- Roll Call:
- Present--Nancy Moldenhauer, Andie Jahnz-Davis, Tim Bauer, Daisy Lee, Laura Henderson, Bailey Chavis, Faye Moore, Tristan Bogart, Angela Reynolds, Dominique Edwards
- Absent--Clarence Hulse, Bryant Dabney (City Council Liaison)
- Excused--Phil Kohler
  
- Approval of Minutes, February 11, 2020--Tim moved and Daisy seconded for approval of February 11, 2021 minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- Welcome New Liaison City Councilman Bryant Dabney--deferred due to his absence
  
- Project Teams
  - **“Caught You Being Green”**—Andie Jahnz-Davis [article, campaigns, and Earth Month] Andie has interviewed Tristan and will post soon; next she would like to interview Daisy. Also, some smaller posts re: Nora Ryszka and Mike Kilbourne who started The Great Michigan City Green Clean, and Walker Street Park Community Garden event (Dominique will provide details). The Earth Day Extravaganza this year will be a contest with prize baskets, asking people to submit a photo or montage describing how they/their household observe Earth Day/Earth Month. Sustainability Commission members may not enter; we will judge the entries.
  - **Indiana University Resilience Cohort for SolSmart Designation**—Laura, Tristan, & Nancy [City Council President Michael Mack approved participation while waiting for approval from our Mayor] Laura shared that Mayor Duane Parry has signed the letter of intent thus our Sustainability Commission will be participating.
  - **Solar United Neighbors (SUN)**—Nancy [Zack Schalk, Indiana Program Director, stated enrollment will remain open through March 31<sup>st</sup> for NWI including Lake, Porter & LaPorte Counties; be sure to share with your neighbors and our community this opportunity which offers discounted solar equipment and lower installation costs to coop members.] Check out archived NWI Green Drinks Solar 101:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8bSyJX42Qbs>

Join for free: (1) Solar United Neighbors National, (2) Solar United Neighbors Indiana, and (3) NWI Cooperative:

(1) <https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/become-a-member-today/?fbclid=IwAR0kIW0XZvG4Nuc49vYyD0qPIKYMJaQHSEYilpQKAyfs2-FWUr062E7wJl4>

(2) <https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/indiana/>

(3) <http://solarunitedneighbors.org/nwi>

Learn more: <https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/> ;

<https://www.facebook.com/solarunitedneighbors> ;

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SolarUnitedNeighborsofIndiana>

Nancy reported that Zach Schalk of SUN Indiana had hoped for 50 members of the co-op; there are currently 59 members. Please spread the word as membership remains open until March 31. Laura asked about having the questions asked in the application for membership available beforehand so information can be gathered. Andie will collect the questions when she applies tomorrow and post them on our Michigan City Sustainability Facebook page.

- **Carbon Neutral Indiana (CNI)**—Andie Jahnz-Davis, Nancy Moldenhauer, & Laura Henderson [Daisy Lee has rescheduled with Daniel Poynter, Founder of CNI; new Carbon Neutral Ohio launch] <https://www.carbonneutralindiana.org/> ; <https://www.facebook.com/carbonneutralindiana> Daisy Lee reports she went carbon neutral about a month ago. Nancy reports that Carbon Neutral Ohio will be launched very soon.
- **Waste Reduction/"Garbology"**—Daisy Lee, Tim Bauer, Bailey Chavis, & Angela Reynolds [parks & clean ups] Tim and Daisy met with Ed Shinn and Shannon Eason. Pilot project is going well, informational stickers for the park recycling bins have been ordered and will soon be applied. They began discussing Washington Park Beach and will be looking at grants to purchase attractive 2-part cans for garbage on one side and recycling on the other side.
- **Board Comments**--Laura mentioned the discussion on Facebook regarding a city council person asking big box stores to take some responsibility for the large amounts of trash generated in their areas. Nancy mentioned that councilman Don Przybylinski has organized his family and joined The Michigan City Green Clean. Tristan will have a Tesla-themed photo shoot for his birthday next month.
- **Public Comments**--Nancy discussed a theme in the current state house legislation, of attempts to limit local government control with a number of bills. In particular she mentioned 3 bills: HB 1381 which is now in the Senate, to preserve the right of local governments to require use of pollinator friendly plantings between arrays on solar farms (recommend support), SB 389 which is now in the House, to eliminate protection for 80% of Indiana's wetlands (recommend oppose), and SB 373 currently in the House, which Daniel Poynter had input into, which encourages regenerative farming and responsible forestry (recommend support). She encouraged contacting our local state lawmakers regarding these bills.
- **Announcements**--Dominique announced the spring cleanup at Walker Street Park Community Garden on Saturday March 20, beginning at 9 a.m. Nancy announced NWI Green Drinks will be on Thursday April 1 at 6:30 via Zoom. The guest speaker from Chicago's Adler Planetarium will discuss night dark skies. Local advocates for dark skies will also be present.

- Adjournment--Laura moved and Faye seconded for adjournment. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Laura Henderson, Secretary