

# Commission on Sustainability



## MICHIGAN CITY INDIANA

THURSDAY APRIL 8, 2021 at 5:30 pm  
Zoom Meeting  
Agenda

The meeting was called to order by Chair Nancy Moldenhauer at 5:34 pm

- Roll Call
- Present: Nancy Moldenhauer, Andie Jahnz-Davis, Tim Bauer, Faye Moore, Philip Kohler, Tristan Bogart
- Excused: Laura Henderson, Daisy Lee, Bailey Chavis
- Absent: Angela Reynolds, Clarence Hulse, Bryant Dabney (Council Liaison)
- Approval of Minutes, March 16, 2021--Motion to approve by Faye Moore with second by Tim Bauer; unanimously approved.
- Welcome to Bryant Dabney deferred; contributions of Dominique Edwards, recently resigned from Commission, were recognized; along with notice of opening and requests for suggestions for new commissioner; recognition of reappointments to commission of Andie Jahnz-Davis by City Council and Tim Bauer by Mayor.
- Project Teams
  - **“Caught You Being Green”**—Andie Jahnz-Davis [article, campaigns, and Earth Month contest] -  
-Feature on Tristan has been completed and will be posted shortly. She will interview Daisy for the next feature. Meijer has a new plastic bag recycling with detailed list of types of acceptable plastic, which will be part of an upcoming mini feature. Tim Bauer will also have a mini feature, putting recyclables into totes at city parks. The Earth Day event has been posted on Facebook and will be open April 17-30 with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prize baskets. Commissioners will vote on the winners and will not be allowed to enter. Details are on the event posting on Michigan City Sustainability Facebook page.
  - **Indiana University Resilience Cohort for SolSmart Designation**—Laura Henderson, Tristan Bogart, & Nancy Moldenhauer [Mayor signed off on participation and funding; to schedule assessment meeting with IU Resilience Cohort Coordinator]--Laura was not available, however Nancy updated the commission with news that we are seeking someone from Inspection Department to join the team, to ensure that what is put in place will work well for the inspection department as well as streamlining the process for solar contractors and residents or businesses who want to install solar. While bronze is the easiest SolSmart designation to reach, the silver designation may be achievable for Michigan City.
  - **New Sustainability Commission Annual Award**—Tristan Bogart [Nora L. Schultz Tribute Sustainability Award, annual award during Earth Month, first awardee Nora Ryszka and Mike Kilbourne, co-founders and leaders of The Great Michigan City Green Clean; vote on award

and awardees] --Tristan explained this project which is meant to recognize someone who is helping Michigan City to be greener. He will consider seeking sponsors so some prizes can be offered to awardees. This award, which will be annual during April, will be in memory of Nora L Schultz who picked up large amounts of trash through her own efforts. Many people saw her regularly picking up trash in the Meijer area and saw what a significant difference she made. She was also known as a truly kind, supportive, and caring person. Andie moved and Faye seconded that the commission adopt this project. The motion passed unanimously. Tristan has nominated for this year Michael Kilbourne and Nora Ryska, for their efforts creating The Great Michigan City Green Clean and thereby recruiting many residents to participate in picking up trash in Michigan City. Tim moved and Philip seconded that the commission approve the nomination of Mike and Nora as recipients of this year's award. The motion was approved unanimously. Nancy mentioned the need for a press release, and Andie volunteered to do that.

- **Soul Power Project**—La'Tonya (Niki) Troutman, NAACP LaPorte County Unit 6031 [Introduce Soul Power Project, inviting Sustainability Commission to support and participate, vote on opportunity] – La'Tonya gave a great presentation on the background and concept of Soul Power Project which will provide free training in solar installation skills to those who apply and attend, as well as resume help. Training is for individuals 18 years and older and returning citizens, who have at least 9<sup>th</sup> grade proficiency in reading and writing, who are interested in sales, design, installation, or project management in the solar field. Training is partly online and partly in person, Mon-Fri from 10 am to 2 pm for 6 weeks. It provides preparation for NABCEP and OSHA 10 certifications. This training is free, with basic tools, books, and 2 t-shirts included. Apply now at the local NAACP website. It is supported by the local NAACP, Indiana Workforce, Solar Neighbors United, Elevate Energy. After the presentation and an opportunity for commissioners to ask any questions, Andie moved, and Tim seconded that the Sustainability Commission partner with the NAACP in supporting the Soul Power Project. The motion was unanimously approved.
- **Biking, Hiking, and Walking Culture**—Phillip Kohler & Tim Bauer [proposed bicycle focused event, maybe a bike repair workshop or a City bike ride; vote on hosting an event] \*Deferred due to lack of time\*
- **Carbon Neutral Indiana (CNI)**—Nancy Moldenhauer, Andie Jahnz-Davis, & Laura Henderson [Daisy Lee's household is Carbon Neutral; 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of CNI tomorrow; who needs to reschedule with Daniel Poynter, Founder of CNI] <https://www.carbonneutralindiana.org/> ; <https://www.facebook.com/carbonneutralindiana> \*Deferred due to lack of time\*
- **Solar United Neighbors (SUN)**—Nancy Moldenhauer [Zack Schalk, Indiana Program Director, announced enrollment closed on March 31<sup>st</sup> for Solar United Neighbors NWI; 59 cooperative members with a 50-member goal in LaPorte (21), Porter (11), & Lake (22) Counties with a few from other counties (5); ZIP Codes: 46360 (8), 46350 (9)] \*Deferred due to lack of time\*
- Board Comments--none
- Public Comments—Dalia offered to post notices from the Sustainability Commission on her own website.
- Announcements—Nancy announced Green Drinks on Thursday May 6 via Facebook Live and Zoom, at 6:30 p.m., on Environmental Justice and Soul Power, featuring Denise Abdul-Rahman, Chair of Indiana's NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program and Regional Field Organizer.

- Dalia asked for a 2-3 minute update from the Sustainability Commission to the City Council, at every other Council meeting.
- Adjournment—Andie moved, and Tim seconded for adjournment. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Laura Henderson, Secretary