



**DRAFT SACEE
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
February 15, 2016**

Board Members in Attendance: Chair Sonia Marcus, Vice Chair John Noor, Lael Gray, Duncan McPherson, Lawrence Pittman, Josh O’Conner, Mindy Fisher, Keith McDade, Geoffrey Habron

Staff in Attendance: Kerby Smithson, Amber Weaver, Joey Robison, Todd Okolichany, Melissa VanSickle

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Mr. Josh O’Conner motioned to approve the minutes, Ms. Mindy Fisher seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

2. UPDATES

a. Urban Agriculture Alliance: Josh O’Conner

Mr. O’Conner reported that the Urban Agriculture Alliance just completed their 2nd meeting and are now working toward deciding on members. The goal of the Alliance is to use a collaborative framework to promote action for an equitable food system. The Food Policy Council has a sitting member on the Alliance and therefore the same ideas are emerging.

b. Energy Update: Sonia Marcus

Chair Sonia Marcus explained that there are two levels to address carbon reduction, the city level and the regional level. At the city level, the Sustainability Office has reviewed applications and are setting up interviews for a part-time position that will help implement projects in the work plan. Staff has also begun working on the Mayor’s Workplace Challenge in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce. The challenge includes a survey that will help determine how “green” businesses are and provide staff with data to help engage with the commercial district in energy reduction. Staff is also exploring a Better Buildings Challenge. Ms. Amber Weaver also provided an update concerning the partnership with Duke Energy. Chair Sonia Marcus inquired about the status of drafting a request for proposals for renewable energy installations on City facilities. Ms. Weaver explained that staff has just begun to explore this idea, working with the Facilities Director to figure out which rooftops would be able to support the installations. Staff is also looking into PACE options, continuing to research the best methods for Asheville or North Carolina. Lael Gray inquired about the Mayor’s Workplace Challenge and what the strategies are for attracting businesses that may not already be invested in carbon reduction efforts. The Chamber is reaching out to all businesses that are a part of the Chamber and staff will work to incorporate that idea into a communication effort. Members discussed the challenge, its timeline, and the topic of community solar options. Members also discussed the relationship with Duke Energy, coordinating programs, and options for sharing ideas.

Chair Sonia Marcus moved forward to discuss the regional level efforts. A task force is being formed that will consist of elected officials from the City and County, representatives from Duke Energy and other organizations in the community. This task force will work to make recommendations and decisions regarding energy reduction strategies. Councilwoman Julie Mayfield also announced that

Duke Energy was accepted to go to the Rocky Mountain Institute with six representatives which will include representatives from the County and the City.

c. RADTIP Public Art Advisory Group: Duncan McPherson

In January, Mr. Duncan McPherson was invited to be a SACEE representative at the RATIP Public Art Planning Advisory Group meeting. Many infrastructure improvements are funded for the area and the goal for the City is to reach out about public art and design for the project. Mr. McPherson provided information regarding the public meetings and other public engagement efforts for public art in the RADTIP. Mr. McPherson also informed members of the opportunities that were discussed at the meeting, such as incorporating stormwater retention and developing a unified element that incorporates history into the art.

d. Food Policy Action Plan: Amber Weaver

The Food Policy Action plan was passed in 2013 and resides in the Sustainability Office. There are 17 action items within the plan, with a main theme of food security. Over past years, some action items have been addressed through community gardens. Recently, the community has become interested in edibles. In the Sustainability Office, staff is coordinating with Ms. Mary Ellen from the Food Policy Council to address the action items. Ms. Amber Weaver is currently working to identify where community gardens and edibles can be incorporated on greenways. Ms. Weaver is also working with CAPE to create a website specifically for food policy to educate those interested.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. PAYT Letter of Support

The Pay As You Throw (PAYT) report previously went to the PED Committee in December 2015. At the PED meeting, the Committee raised concerns about costs. Members discussed the concerns from Council members and Waste Zero about the report and ways to move forward. Due to the 50% waste reduction goal, members decided to work on getting a committee back together to examine that goal and develop a process to educate and make recommendations.

b. SACEE Bylaws/ Diversity Statement/ SACEE Working Groups

Members discussed an outstanding edit to the SACEE bylaws. Previously, members changed the wording from “required” to “strongly recommend” in regard to professional affiliations of members. Members came to a consensus to add the phrase, “but not limited to” and combine social and environmental justice and construction and real estate.

John Noor moved to adopt the bylaws as amended. Lael Gray seconded. Amendments were adopted unanimously.

In regards to the diversity statement, members discussed the comments and edits and Council’s conversations about recruitment and diversity on Boards and Commissions. Members decided to review the recent comments and then discuss in depth at the next meeting.

c. 2015 Highlights & 2016 Annual Report

The annual report, which used the same format as last year was developed as a result of the SACEE retreat. The report was submitted to Council before the Council Retreat.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. New Planning & Urban Design Director Introduction: Todd Okolichany

The new Planning and Urban Design Director, Todd Okolichany introduced himself and provided the group with information about his professional background. The Planning and Urban Design Department is beginning to work on the Comprehensive Plan update. Currently, staff is working to select a consultant for the project. The plan will provide a vision for the City and sustainability will be weaved throughout the plan.

b. New Member Introduction: Keith McDade & Geoffrey Habron

New and existing members introduced themselves and their backgrounds.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

6. ADJOURN

Chair Sonia Marcus adjourned the meeting at 4:53 PM without objection.