



**SACEE  
DRAFT MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, July 15, 2015**

**Board Members in Attendance: Chair Lael Gray, Vice Chair Sonia Marcus, Katie Bray, Torin Kexel, Duncan McPherson, John Noor, Lawrence Pittman, Josh O'Conner, Councilor Gwen Wisler**

**Staff in Attendance: Cathy Ball, Amber Weaver, Joey Robison**

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** O'Conner moved to approve the minutes, Kexel seconded. Minutes approved.

**2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**a. Asheville-Buncombe Food Policy Council Update; Mary Lou Kempf**

A public meeting to gather input from the public was announced and members were told to RSVP by July 26<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Mary Ellen Phillips Lowe, the new Food Policy Council Coordinator was then introduced. Ms. Phillips Lowe continued to describe her desire to protect and expand resources in Asheville. Since there is a strong food system in Asheville and people are pulling together to work in the movement, Ms. Phillips Lowe expressed wanting to know how to work with SACEE to work toward shared goals. Vice Chair Marcus requested an update on what Ms. Phillips Lowe has been working on and to see what SACEE should bring forward as a recommendation to Council. Phillip Lowe's work was then discussed and suggestions were made regarding how SACEE can work with Ms. Phillips Lowe.

**b. Follow Up from 7/9 Energy Task Force Meeting; Duke Power Plant Plans; Sonia Marcus**

Changes to the draft framework were reviewed, which included defining clean energy, reduction of details of Duke Energy's commitment, addendum of larger group list of ideas and specific action items for the City as part of the partnership agreement. The partnership agreement includes PACE and considering renewables on City buildings. Ms. Sonia Marcus expressed that this is a step forward and is specific enough to provide some near-term direction. Members discussed the communications with Duke Energy. Members think it is an improvement from original document and recommend approval. Ms. Weaver indicated that the addendum will be reviewed again during the comprehensive planning process. Members then moved forward to discuss the details of the document and it was mentioned that SACEE should consider immediate action to recommend reduction in the size of the gas plant, that the City should ask PACE program, issue RFPs for solar on buildings and land. This issue is very time sensitive due to Duke submitting plans to the Utilities Commission soon. Plans to move forward were discussed by members. Mr. McPherson indicated that it is appropriate for SACEE to recommend to City Council that there be a formal reaction including the City of Asheville engaging in the planning process. Members continued to discuss the origination of this work and the amount of support and representation from Duke. To address issues of time, members discussed the need to have steps of action that call for have high level communication between Duke and the City. As discussion moved forward, members asked to amend the document and timeline. Members made a motion to amend and recommend document by McPherson. Kexel second. The motion passed.

**c. Bee City USA; Phyllis Stiles**

Ms. Stiles provided an update on reviewing the relationship between pesticides and pollinators. There are 11 bee cities across the country, including Asheville. Ms. Stiles continued with a description of the use of pesticides and provided general information on bees. In trying to get cities involved in providing habitat, Ms. Stiles is encouraging Asheville to go native and prioritize planting native plants. Many cities have banned neonicotinoids in parklands or go pesticide free. Ms. Stiles asks SACEE to recommend to council that the City plant natives, adopt least toxic IPM plan and have pesticide free parks. Members discussed the current requirements and use of pesticides. Members asked that there be a report and results for the next agenda.

**d. Memo to City Council Regarding Water Conservation Recommendations; Sonia Marcus – not on this agenda.**

**e. Waste Management Update; Amber Weaver – will provide update next month due to time constraints.**

**f. Boards and Commissions Update; Amber Weaver – sent out draft manual, will get on the website. Asked that resolution be posted and to create bylaws.**

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Comprehensive Planning Process; Cathy Ball**

Ms. Ball explained the process of putting out an RFP for a comprehensive plan, which sets the vision for the City's future. Ms. Ball noted that sustainability is entwined within all sections. Planning Director Interviews were occurring that week and the City hopes to have them on board for RFP selection. SACEE will be invited to engage in the process in various ways. Also, a consultant will provide the engagement opportunities including action items to measure progress, and be searchable so it is more user friendly. Ms. Ball expressed that she will come back with updates when a consultant is selected and there is a more defined process.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Grant Millin expressed a need for an economic development approach to bring in all supporters. Have to have reliable power, but needs to offer solutions that are not nonrenewable energy. Can be reduced in size, and recommends 200 mW. Smart Grid DEEP is a solution. Tie in new technology plus energy efficiency measures including paid demand response as a package for innovation districts. Mr. Millin also stated that carbon emission reductions Duke is expecting are relative because of the output of methane and there is a need to estimate leakage rate. Mr. Millins also announced that there is a webinar on August 11<sup>th</sup> and will send an invite to the committee.

Mr. Rick Clemense is in support of a PACE re-up, and can address peak demand with PACE. Would like to start the discussion and can make a presentation to move it forward.

Ms. Cathy Scott agrees that SACEE needs to add a timeframe and to ask Duke to not present to utility council until they have made an effort to work with City and citizens. There is benefit in telling Duke we care about our citizenry and Modernization plan is not a good plan. Let them know this seems like a violation of what is best for citizens.

Ms. Maureen Liniman, Creation Carolina and Green Granny, encourages members to take creative ideas from community and move them forward. Wants to empower SACEE. Timeframe presented is very important to move forward.

Richard: Thank you for taking this up. As a community we can work to get higher officials at Duke to the table. If it gets contentious, the City can legally intervene in utilities commission hearing.

**6. ADJOURN**

Chair Grey adjourned the meeting at 5:02 without objection.