



**SACEE  
DRAFT MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
March 21, 2016**

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

**Staff in Attendance: Amber Weaver, Haley Mahoney, Cathy Ball, Kerby Smithson, Melissa VanSickle**

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Keith McDade noted a spelling error in the minutes. John Noor motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Josh O’Conner seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

**2. UPDATES/REPORTS**

**a. Waste Reduction: Cathy Ball and Mindy Fisher**

Ms. Cathy Ball informed members that Council is going to consider an increase in the trash collection fee, which is suggested to go up to \$14 a month. Currently, the fee of \$10.50 covers about 55% of costs. The recent proposed increase is part of a planned increase to help move forward with considering a Pay As Your Throw (PAYT) option. Staff is working to review comments and responses to the PAYT study and the available options. Members discussed the fee increases and what it would take to have full cost recovery. Ms. Mindy Fisher noted that the Waste Reduction Subcommittee will be meeting to develop goals and focus on cost issues.

**b. Municipal Carbon Reductions: Kerby Smithson**

Mr. Kerby Smithson provided a background for new members about the 2011 resolution concerning carbon reduction efforts. In 2007, Council passed a 2% reduction goal and then doubled it to 4%. Mr. Smithson also showed the City’s performance, indicating that the City has been outperforming but the goal will begin to get harder to reach. Members discussed and inquired about what departments contribute to the highest usage, factors that may artificially deflate the numbers, and funding. Staff is working to see if it will be possible to revisit the goal and to come up with a plan for how to achieve reductions in next few years. Mr. John Noor mentioned that he would like to discuss the ability to work through ideas and budget impacts so that members can advise on priorities and look into opportunities to include other reductions. Members asked that for the next meeting, they could see further insights in regards to municipal reduction targets.

**c. Community Clean Energy Policy Framework: Amber Weaver  
Haley Mahoney Introduction, Sustainability Technician**

Staff is working with the Chamber of Commerce to receive and share information for the Asheville Workplace Challenge, which will begin on Earth Day. The Workplace Challenge will include a survey and lunch and learns for businesses. The Sustainability Office is continuing to work on PACE and

hoping to present it to the Finance Committee in April. Ms. Amber Weaver introduced the new Sustainability Technician, Ms. Haley Mahoney who provided a background about herself and her educational and work experiences. Moving forward, Ms. Sonia Marcus discussed the carbon goals and provided an update concerning the Energy Innovation Task Force and their work regarding the Asheville Duke Energy coal plant. Council will be considering the creation of this group and some members will be attending the E-lab at the Rocky Mountain Institute. Members discussed SACEE's role in providing input and feeding information back to that group.

**d. Food Policy Action Plan: Amber Weaver**

Ms. Amber Weaver provided an update concerning food policy, informing members that staff is working to have a website for food policy. Staff is also working on an urban agriculture lease option and how to provide for large agricultural purposes in affordable housing, a community garden application, and on a possible "adopt a spot" program. Recently, there has been coordination with the communications staff and stakeholders to work on the edible mile for the French Broad Greenway. Members discussed having a main point of contact and providing support to those who would like to set up a community garden. Opportunities outside of City land were also discussed as well as fees that may be associated with community gardens.

**3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**a. SACEE Focus Areas 2016: Participation & Engagement**

Members plan to address these at every meeting and to assign responsible parties. Ms. Sonia Marcus asked for action items concerning each topic.

**1. Public Forum - Improve quality of public comment**

Previous issues with public comment were explained and members provided ideas and feedback. Members discussed making the meetings more accessible, ways to gather feedback from the public, the possibility of online engagement, and the protocol for engagement with the public. Members discussed working to understand the parameters of their ability to engage the public outside of the meetings.

**2. Diversity of Membership**

Members discussed additional actions that they would like to add to what the City is proposing in the policy for Boards and Commission. The discussion included more efforts for socioeconomic diversity and identifying the current communication reach.

**3. Raise Awareness/Visibility**

The lack of visibility and awareness of the Committee was discussed. Ms. Sonia Marcus asked that members who attend an event that deals with issues that the Committee touches, to make a point to contribute and identify as a member of SACEE.

**4. Coordination with Boards & Commissions**

Members discussed making time to attend other board meetings and interacting with neighborhood associations. Ms. Sonia Marcus asked that members identify intersections with other boards and share opportunities. Members further discussed ways to communicate and work with other boards and commissions and the possibility of a listserv and sharing agendas.

Moving forward, members noted the need to clearly articulate their goals for this focus area. Members discussed using smaller groups to identify goals in a work session. It was determined that

in next SACEE meeting, members should develop the outcome of what they would like to see and determine who will want to take charge.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Willow Walker commented on the PAYT consideration. Ms. Walker had read through the report and discussed information about PAYT systems that she wanted to bring to the attention of the members.

Members discussed the points that Ms. Walker made and Ms. Sonia Marcus asked that members have a conversation about getting people involved in smaller groups on specific issues. Members also had a discussion about the process for people getting time on the agenda and having public comment during the meeting.

**5. ADJOURN**

**Chair Sonia Marcus adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m. without objection.**

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