



**New Albany Sustainability Advisory Board  
February 9, 2022 Minutes**

The Sustainability Advisory Board met for the Board’s regularly scheduled session at the New Albany Village Hall, 99 W. Main St, and was called to order by Mr. Filiatraut at 6:33 PM.

Those answering roll call:

Mr. Brian Filiatraut, Chair	Present
Mr. Charles Schumacher, Vice-Chair	Present
Ms. Catherine Duffy, Secretary	Absent
Mr. Peter Barnes	Present
Ms. Laura Gallo	Present
Mr. Steven Conway	Present
Mr. Scott Harrold	Present
Ms. Brigitte Bell (Student Member)	Present
Mr. Kasey Kist (Council liaison)	Present

Staff members present: Adrienne Joly, Administrative Services Director; Mike Barker, Public Service Deputy Director; Anna van der Zwaag, Planner; and Marylou Hoessle, City Forester.

Moved by Mr. Schumacher, seconded by Ms. Gallo to approve the January 12, 2022 meeting minutes with the stated correction. Upon roll call: Mr. Schumacher, yea; Ms. Gallo, yea; Mr. Filiatraut, yea; Mr. Harrold, yea; Mr. Barnes, yea; Mr. Conway, yea. Yea, 6; Nay, 0; Abstain, 0. Motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

Mr. Filiatraut asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda.

Ms. van der Zwaag stated none from staff.

Mr. Filiatraut asked if there were any members of the public present to speak to items not on tonight’s agenda.

Ms. van der Zwaag invited Dr. Wayne Poll up to the microphone to discuss his ideas related to Distributed Energy Resource Management (DERMs). Dr. Poll explained the concept of DERMs and expressed his interest in having New Albany become a model community as a DERM.

Dr. Poll was asked “community scale” means when it comes to DERMs. Would New Albany need to disconnect from the grid? Dr. Poll responded that New Albany would not disconnect from the grid, but that a DERM becomes the grid. AEP becomes a partner. He emphasized that the regulatory environment is very important and New Albany would need to welcome partners and coordinate the efforts to become a DERM.

Dr. Poll was asked about how private partners would be brought to the table. Dr. Poll stated the first step is to bring AEP to the table and then talk to battery companies and other private companies in New Albany.

Dr. Poll was asked why he thinks New Albany will make a good “lab space” for this? Dr. Poll stated he has lived in New Albany for a long time and believes the companies here would make it work.

Mr. Filiatraut stated that there is an OSU Innovation Center near campus that has a microgrid and that could be worth investigating further.

The Board thanked Dr. Poll for coming.

## **Business**

Mr. Filiatraut invited city staff to begin the items of business.

## **Composting Update**

Ms. van der Zwaag provided an update on composting after the Board voted to recommend a composting program to city council at the last meeting. She stated the resolution to authorize the city manager to enact a drop-off municipal composting program for the city will be presented to council on March 1, 2022. She also stated SWACO has some resources that would be available to the city.

Mr. Barker discussed a meeting with SWACO regarding the potential for a regional composting facility. The planning is still preliminary but something the Board could keep an eye on.

## **Sustainable2050 Update**

Ms. van der Zwaag provided an update for the Sustainable2050 certification program through MORPC. Sustainable2050 is a program that supports MORPC's member communities' sustainability efforts through direct technical assistance, collaboration, and recognition. The Engage New Albany strategic plan recommends that New Albany aim to become a gold member. Of all Sustainable2050 members, 16 are members only, zero are bronze, 5 are silver, 2 are gold, and 12 are platinum.

Ms. van der Zwaag stated that Council passed a resolution of commitment to Sustainable2050 on November 8, 2017. In order to become a tiered member, New Albany needs to submit a completed workbook to MORPC by March 11, 2022 to be reviewed and considered by MORPC's Sustainability Advisory Committee in April.

Councilmember Kist asked why New Albany's strategic plan recommended gold status rather than platinum status. Mr. Filiatraut informed the Board that platinum status has been a more recent status available to members.

Ms. van der Zwaag shared the city's current workbook score, as well as the scoring process. Currently New Albany has 40 points and 8 DE&I points. She also highlighted where the city scores points for each goal in the workbook, and where the city has opportunities to score additional points.

Councilmember Kist asked if the Christmas lights recycling program would count towards points. Ms. van der Zwaag responded that she was not sure if it was recycled versus reused if that would count towards the points but she would look at it more closely.

The Board discussed how the city could receive points for working with businesses who utilize sustainable practices. Ms. Joly stated that staff could explore looking at the city's business retention and expansion practices and see how that might contribute to certification.

Moved by Mr. Schumacher, seconded by Mr. Filiatraut to support the city pursuing the highest possible Sustainable2050 status. Upon roll call: Mr. Schumacher, yea; Mr. Filiatraut, yea; Ms. Gallo, yea; Mr. Harrold, yea; Mr. Barnes, yea; Mr. Conway, yea. Yea, 6; Nay, 0; Abstain, 0. Motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

## **Earth Day 2022**

Ms. Hoessle shared that April 22, 2022 is Earth Day and that there are numerous activities that the Board could help facilitate or sponsor if they desired. Potential activities include tree planting, pollinator garden, native tree planting, invasive species removal, BioBlitz, trash pickup, an e-waste drive, or an awareness campaign.

Board members expressed interest in supporting an electronics waste drive for the city and schools.

Ms. Hoessle was asked where the budget would come from for a tree planting. She stated it would come out of the budget she has for those sorts of activities.

Mr. Barnes stated he is familiar with BioBlitzes and it could be a fun activity. He stated it takes about 20 minutes to set up, but the key part is messaging and communicating what it is and why it is taking place. Communicating places to go would also be key. Mr. Barnes stated he would be able to help put it together.

Ms. Joly stated the city will coordinate with communications team for scheduling messaging for a BioBlitz and also work on coordinating an e-waste drive.

The Board discussed that the e-waste drive could take place at the public service department.

The Board expressed interest in additional activities like a tree planting or a cleanup at Planters Grove creek, but those could come at different times. For now, the city will move forward with the drive and the BioBlitz.

## **Solar in New Albany**

Ms. van der Zwaag summarized Board comments from the sticky note activity completed at the December 2021 meeting. She also stated there were four solar-related Sustainable2050 activities that could earn the city points for certification.

The Board discussed how the city has had some conversations with AEP in the past pertaining to aggregation, but that aggregation might not be the right place to start. Solar is a macro-level concept and it can take many directions in New Albany. The Board can take multiple meetings to discuss.

The Board discussed the possibility of having someone from AEP coming in to speak, researching the OSU microgrid solar project, meeting with HOAs.

Mr. Schumacher asked about the relationship between the city and HOAs. Ms. Joly answered that the city has no authority; HOAs have deed restrictions that they manage and are responsible for. There is more of a community partner relationship between HOAs and the city. There is some overlap between responsibilities and shared spaces such as fence's, street trees, and the leisure trail. The city has a zoning code that residents must comply with, but HOAs also have their own regulations and deed restrictions that are outside of city's control.

The Board expressed interest in creating a space to meet with HOAs in New Albany.

Councilmember Kist stated his conversations with some HOAs indicate that they understand panels are a lot smaller and less invasive than they have been historically. HOA regulations on solar panels can differ from one neighborhood or street to another.

Mr. Barnes stated that he has a student who has done research on resident opinions on solar in New Albany that the Board could welcome to speak.

Mr. Schumacher asked about what commercial solar projects look like in New Albany. Councilmember Kist stated that a lot of businesses in New Albany care about alternative energy. Ms. Joly also stated that in many conversations with businesses and economic development conversations there are discussions on solar. These conversations are more inviting than regulatory in nature.

The Board discussed ways the city could promote sustainable business practices, including awards such as a green building/business award or a pledge for composting/recycling or other sustainable practices. There could be a “Green New Albany” award.

Ms. Joly invited the Board to continue to think about these topics and the agenda next month will revisit some of these ideas.

### **Other Business**

Ms. Joly asked members to monitor Covid-19 symptoms and if they demonstrate any symptoms to stay home. If someone does develop symptoms and was at a meeting, she requested they let the city know so that contact tracing can be completed.

Ms. Joly also discussed recent announcement of Intel coming to New Albany. She stated there is still a lot to determine and not a lot to share at this point, but shared two resources, including <https://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/environment/intel-and-the-environment.html> and [newalbanysiliconheartland.com/](http://newalbanysiliconheartland.com/) which both have a lot of good resources.

Mr. Filiatraut invited Board members to attend the Environmental Sustainability Forum at MORPC from 6:30 – 8 p.m. on March 3, 2022. The event will be attended by other similar sustainability boards and committees across central Ohio.

### **Poll Members for Comment**

Mr. Filiatraut asked if there were any other comments from the Board.

Mr. Filiatraut motioned to adjourn the meeting with a second from Mr. Conway. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Submitted by Anna van der Zwaag.