



New Albany Sustainability Advisory Board
April 13, 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 6:31 PM.

Those answering roll call:

Mr. Brian Filiatraut, Chair	Present
Mr. Charles Schumacher, Vice-Chair	Present
Ms. Catherine Duffy, Secretary	Present
Mr. Peter Barnes	Present
Ms. Laura Gallo	Present
Mr. Steven Conway	Present (arrived 7:12)
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; and Anna van der Zwaag, Planner.

Moved by Ms. Gallo, seconded by Mr. Schumacher to approve the March 9, 2022 meeting minutes. Upon roll call: Ms. Gallo, yea; Mr. Schumacher, yea; Mr. Filiatraut, yea; Ms. Duffy, yea; Mr. Harrold, yea; Mr. Barnes, 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. No corrections from Board members.

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

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 that as of the date of the meeting, the compost program was live and that Board members could take a bucket with them and sign up online.

Ms. van der Zwaag stated that new enclosures were built at Village Hall and Public Service, and that as of the meeting 41 people had registered so far.

Ms. van der Zwaag showed the Board how to sign up online and reviewed what items are compostable.

Board members asked if staff will be composting at city facilities. Staff stated they are in the process of setting up buckets at Village Hall.

Earth Day 2022

Ms. van der Zwaag updated the Board on plans for Earth Day, which took place on Saturday, April 23, 2022 from 10 AM to 2 PM. Board members have shifts from 9 to 12 and 12 to 3. Staff will be utilizing the police trailer for holding the e-waste. Staff and volunteers will meet at the bike fix-it station at Rose Run.

The Earth Day events will include the e-waste drive, BioBlitz, and compost program sign-ups.

Ms. Hoessle provided an update on Arbor Day, which will take place at Rose Run on Arbor Day at 9 AM. A gingko tree will be planted and the Mayor will read a proclamation.

Solar

Presentation – Isaac Mullendore

Mr. Mullendore presented on his research for his science fair project titled “Do solar panels take away from the beauty of New Albany more than the clean energy benefits the community.” His methods for collecting his research included a Google survey shared on Facebook groups for New Albany residents. Mr. Barnes also sent an email with the Google survey questions to the parents of students in the 5th grade section of his school.

The survey included the following questions:

1. How important is renewable energy (green/renewable = sun, wind, water, etc) to you?
2. Do you currently have solar panels on your home?
3. Do you think that residents of New Albany should be allowed to have solar panels/shingles on their home, as long as they do not take away from the “image” of New Albany?
4. Do you think that it is more important for the community of New Albany to move towards solar energy, even if it detracts from the current “image” of New Albany?
5. Assuming your HOA (homeowners association) does not allow solar power roofs, would you support amending bylaws to allow esthetic solar roof systems?
6. Which neighborhood do you live in?
7. Age

Mr. Mullendore stated that one of the reasons he thinks he was asked to come to the Board meeting was to inform the Board of the results of question 5. A very large number of respondents (86.8%) do support changing HOA bylaws to allow solar house systems. A very small number (2.6%) do not. A little over 10% of respondents are undecided and probably want more information.

The Board and staff thanked Mr. Mullendore for coming to share his presentation and congratulated him on a job well done.

New Albany Solar Code & Design Guidelines Best Practices Report

Next, staff updated the Board on an upcoming project to develop a best practice report for solar codes and design guidelines related to solar installations, both locally and nationally, in communities similar to New Albany. The city will work with MKSK to create this report, and the process may involve working with the Board.

The Board and staff discussed how HOAs could be involved in this process, if at all, as well as how an HOA functions within neighborhoods in New Albany. Ms. Joly stated the status of Senate Bill 61 in the state legislature will likely influence how HOAs are able to regulate solar in their communities. The best practices report will help the city prepare for what comes if the SB 61 is signed into law.

Board members and staff also reviewed examples of PUD zoning texts in New Albany that permit solar panels. Examples include Nottingham Trace which states “Solar panels shall be permitted to be installed on roofs on the rears of homes that face southward, provided that such panels are not visible from a public street.” Epcon has similar language that states “Solar panels shall be permitted to be installed on roofs on the rears of homes, provided that such panels are not visible from a public street.”

Board members pointed out that this language can still be restricting. Staff stated this kind of language and need will be reviewed in the best practices report.

Other Business

Mr. Filiatraut asked if there was any other business that staff.

Ms. van der Zwaag stated staff had requested an update on Intel. Staff directed Board members to the website for the project, newalbansysiliconheartland.com, where there is an Environmental FAQ and many resources and videos available.

Staff played one video that addresses Intel’s sustainability commitment. This video can be watched at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KCdOA3CWxXY&feature=emb_logo.

Ms. Joly stated that there is still a lot to be determined related to the project and directed Board members to utilize the website for updates on the project.

Poll Members for Comment

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

Board members asked about what topics should be discussed next. Ms. Joly stated staff can give an update on Taylor Farm, as well as sustainable or native landscaping.

Mr. Filiatraut motioned to adjourn the meeting with a second from Mr. Conway. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Submitted by Anna van der Zwaag.