

CITY OF HARTFORD ADVISORY COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06103

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Meeting Notes

Commissioners

Tuesday, January 8th, 2019 @ 5:30 PM Green Room - Room 100 in City Hall, 550 Main St.

Chair:

Mark Mitchell, MD, MPH

Commissioners Present: Mark Mitchell and JoAnne Bauer

Secretary

June O'Neil

Additional Attendees: Tom Swarr, Eddie Perez, Jack Hale, Andrew Campbell, Mary Sanders, Thea Montanez, Thomas Kenney, Chanel Johnson, Quishana Gillett, Gannon Long, Chris McArdle, Jonathan Drumm, Shubhada Kambli, Nancy Bowden, Grace Yi, Alex Rodriguez, Kerri Provost, Sam King, and Anthony Cherolis.

Members:

JoAnne Bauer, Ph.D.

I. Call to Order

Russell Williams

Meeting was called to order at 5:40 PM. Attendees introduced themselves.

Staff:

Shubhada Kambli

II. Meeting Notes

Meeting notes from December were reviewed and approved as is.

III. Public Input opportunities on EJ efforts in transportation policy

a. Local Sustainable Transportation Efforts – Anthony Cherolis

Tony Cherolis presented on BiCi Co. and the Transport Hartford Academy
efforts, which have included high-impact youth and bike safety programs
and successful sustainable transportation advocacy. Refer to the
presentation for more details (https://www.meetinginfo.org/meetings/269).

With regard to parking/transportation alternatives for municipal employees, Thea Montanez shared that the City has conducted an initial fiscal analysis of a potential employee parking opt-out program that is estimated to cost the city \$150,000-\$300,000 more than it is currently paying for employee parking. Due to the City's fiscal constraints, Ms. Montanez indicated that in order to support this type of unbudgeted expense, the City would most likely need to secure grant funding. In addition, Ms. Montanez confirmed that the administration would need to seek approval from its labor unions regarding its ability to implement the program.

b. CT LCV EV Updates – Alex Rodriguez

Alex Rodriguez from Chispa CT shared updates concerning EV school buses and the VW settlement process. New Haven's pilot for an EV school bus faced obstacles, causing the program to be delayed until the next round of VW awards. Lessons learned include the need for greater collaboration

with PTA and other community groups, meeting with both private and public stakeholders, and generating media around electrification. Refer to the presentation for more details (see link above).

III. Office of Sustainability Updates

Shubhada Kambli reported back on the potential for a green procurement pilot within the Department of Public Works. Given the extensive number of materials listed on the department's Material Safety Data Sheets, Ms. Kambli has reached out to Anne Hulick of Clean Water Action for guidance on the most common clean alternatives that may be appropriate.

A group of Trinity Action Lab students developed the Hartford Sustainable, Healthy, Economical, and Local Foods project (SHELF). The team identified informational barriers residents may face when trying to access locally-grown, healthy, and affordable foods. For more details, visit the Action Lab website.

IV. Updates on the Trash Incinerator

Tom Swarr shared updates on the status of the trash-to-energy plant located within Hartford. The plant has experienced failure of key equipment, halting the facility's operations. Repairs are anticipated to occur by February. For the March meeting, the commission would like to invite a MIRA representative to share updates on the existing facility as well as the proposed redevelopment.

V. ACOTE Planning Process

New Membership: Chair Mitchell gave a brief overview of ACOTE. Thea Montanez shared information on appointments to commissions. Applications and questions can be sent by email to BoardsandCommissions@hartford.gov. The Mayor's Office will review applications in the coming weeks, and applicants will have a brief discussion with City staff. Nominees will then go before City Council for final approval.

Next Meeting: Green infrastructure will be the theme of the next meeting. The commission will invite a MDC representative to share information about the Long Term Control Plan. Tree Advisory Commission Chair Jack Hale will present on the Urban Tree Canopy, a critical form of green infrastructure.

VI. Announcements

Upcoming events include:

- Posigen is extending its Solar for All Campaign until April 30. Contact Jonathan Drumm for more information.
- Transport Hartford Academy is hosting a Transit Equity Meetup on February 4th. Find more details on the THA Facebook page.
- The Road to Zero Youth Street Team is hosting a community fair on January 26th. Find more details on the THA Facebook page.

VII. Next Meeting:

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM. Next meeting on February 12, 2019.