



Delaware County Sustainability Commission
Meeting Minutes
 Friday, August 9, 2024
 2:00 - 4:00 PM



Attendees:

Commission Members		Other County Staff
PUBLIC MEMBERS (5 for Quorum)		Barbara O'Malley
X	Steve Clark	Elaine Schaefer
X	David Director	Steve DiDonato
X	Krystl Gauld	Ron Aquilino
	Cephus Hales-Richardson	
X	Carol Martsolf	
X	Julie Prey	
X	Jaclyn Rhoads	
X	Shawn Stancill	
X	Grace Venit	
	Joi Washington	
GOVERNMENT MEMBERS (4 for Quorum)		
X	Gina Burritt	
	Laura Goodrich-Cairns	
X	Karen Wilwol	

Commission Members		Other County Staff
	Anne Stauffer	
	Ed Orner	
X	John Bosch (A)	
X	Becca Yurkovich	

1. Welcome, Roll Call, and Interactive Question – Carol Martsof (2:00 PM - 2:10 PM)

- Carol Martsof took attendance and quorum was not present. The meeting then moved on to the interactive question on mentimeter:
 - Q: What option produces the most CO2 emissions per day? Average daily commute by car, carnivorous diet, or vegan diet?
 - A: Carnivorous diet.

2. Instructions for Public Comment - Carol Martsof (2:10 - 2:12 PM)

- Throughout the meeting, we will provide the opportunity for residents and guests to provide feedback. Guests may submit written comments to the email SustainDelco@co.delaware.pa.us. *Guests may also provide comment in the chat window of the Zoom meeting.*

3. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes from June - Carol Martsof (2:12 PM - 2:15 PM)

As there was no quorum, this item is postponed until the next meeting.

Public Comment (SustainDelco@co.delaware.pa.us and from Zoom chat)

- Becca Yurkovich informed the commission of one public comment (submitted via email in July from a resident in Springfield Township) regarding Township’s plan for subdivision in her neighborhood.
- The Sustainability Commission is tasked with the charge of input and

recommendations to county council and county staff, but it is not within the purview of the commission to provide advice or formal opinions as a group as to municipal development.

- Carol noted that the commission will reply to the Springfield Township resident with resources as that is all that is within the Commission's purview to do.

4. Office of Sustainability Update - Becca Yurkovich (2:20 - 2:30 PM)

- Barbara O'Malley presented the following updates to the Commission:
 - Francine Locke has tendered her resignation effective this week and expressed gratitude for the work she has done for the county.
 - Structure of the Office of Sustainability
 - Chief Sustainability Officer Role
 - Changing role to allow for more county wide purview and impact in the community
 - Focus on implementing Sustainability Plan
 - Capital investments
 - Becca is acting as Interim Chief Sustainability Officer
 - Need to align duties in job description as role will no longer have direct oversight of certain operational departments; also need to determine the necessary support roles.
 - Discussion ensued regarding the Commission's involvement in the hiring process.
 - Councilperson Elaine Schaefer commented on County Council's commitment to the Office of Sustainability and the importance of continuing to be regional leaders.
 - Carol Martsof asked a question related to the Chief Sustainability Officer's role overseeing the public works department and requested that the person in that role could still provide input in construction and design projects to promote sustainability.
 - Barbara O'Malley responded that the county will be centralizing purchasing. Sustainability will be able to give input on purchasing, construction contracts, etc.
 - David Director provided suggestions with regard to the role moving forward.
- Department/Membership updates
 - Parks and Recreation
 - Marc Manfre, Director of Parks and Recreation has retired.
 - Anne Stauffer has been promoted to Interim Director.

- Member Terms up this October
 - Krystl Gauld (EJ Community)
 - Cephus Hales-Richardson (EJ Community)
 - Julie Prey (General Public)
 - Shawn Stancill (Energy Expert)
- Grant Funded Projects
 - Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) - Regional Application was Declined
 - LSA Tree Canopy Study - SavATree and University of Vermont Contracted
 - *NEW* USDA Composting and Food Waste Reduction Grant
 - Partnership with Chester County for Community Composting and Backyard Composting Education
 - Will provide composting bins at 5 key community locations in each county
 - Training/nominal monthly fee for residents
 - Backyard composting education
 - Ex - Lower Merion's pilot composting program
 - Climate Vulnerability Mapping Tool
 - Sustainability Plan Database Creation
 - SEPSA - Renewable Energy Policy and Membership Qualifications
 - Request for qualifications - membership is currently made up of neighboring counties; what kind of qualifications would the group be looking for to onboard new members?
 - Municipalities, school districts, publicly funded universities, private universities, etc.
 - Discussion ensued.
 - Keep Delco Beautiful
 - Planning event for Fall to formally launch Keep Delco Beautiful
 - Save the Date for Campaign Recycling Event in the Fall
 - PRC partnering with DCSWA for consolidation site of glass
 - Opportunities for reduced-cost hosting of traveling glass bin
 - Energy Prices Expected to Increase
 - PJM Set record high for 2025/2026 Capacity Auction
 - Peco is proposing a 35% distribution charge increase before PUC
 - Solar for All - Coming to the Region Soon
- Office of Sustainability Intern, Stephen DiDonato, presented summer research project on litter and illegal dumping ordinance collection and creation of models
- Steve Clark offered to help with data for Energy Policy and Membership Qualifications.

**5. Discussion of Delaware County Zero Waste Plan - Becca Yurkovich
(2:30 - 3:15 PM)**

- Process started roughly two years ago;
- 10-Year Municipal Solid Waste Plan
- Goals:
 - Make the plan more accessible to residents and community
 - Deeper dive compared to sustainability plan
 - Tool/resource
 - Reiterate County's commitment to zero waste
 - Will be released at the same time as the 10-Year Solid Waste Plan to show synchronization
- Project consultants commented on the momentum of the zero waste project.
- Discussion:
 - Timing - TBD
 - David Director commented that the introduction should include language - zero waste is more than an aspirational goal, it's a way of looking at the world; man is the only creature on the planet that creates waste; it's really a paradigm shift and would be useful to mention that when introducing the concept of zero waste.
 - Zero Waste Plan tracks requirements of Act 101
 - Becca's recommendations:
 - Cut down on some content related to compliance components to allow for shorter plan (50-100 pages rather than over 200 pages);
 - Add definition/acronym section to make the plan more readable for general public;
 - Adding photos/graphic representations;
 - Recognizing that some of the ideas in the plan have not been done on the East Coast, so it may be helpful to include information on where the ideas in the plan have been successfully done before;
 - More of an introductory section that speaks to the players involved;
 - Short component recognizing how the two plans work together.
 - Discussion ensued regarding recommendations suggested and current waste management system.
 - Next steps:
 - Solidifying timeline;
 - Notifying/meeting with advisory committee;

- Consolidating ideas and creating work plan; and
- Dividing up tasks and making necessary updates.

Public Comment (SustainDelco@co.delaware.pa.us and from Zoom chat)

No public comment.

6. Action Items from Last Meeting - Carol Martsof (3:15 - 3:20 PM)

- July meeting cancelled based on attendance poll/summer vacations;
- Zero Waste Plan sent;
- Green Space Task Force;
- Select another location for an in person meeting by the end of the year
 - This item will be carried over to next meeting.

7. New Business – Carol Martsof to ask group for new business (3:20 PM - 3:25 PM)

No new business was presented.

8. Set Action Items for Next Meeting - Carol Martsof (3:25 - 3:30 PM)

- Approve meeting minutes from past two meetings.
- Position of Chief Sustainability Officer - Barbara will keep us updated on how we can help with that process and also help Becca in the interim;
- SEPSA & Renewable Energy Policy;
- ZeroWaste Plan and launch;
- Key community locations for the PRC traveling glass bins;
- Member terms expiring - procedure.

Public Comment (SustainDelco@co.delaware.pa.us and from Zoom chat)

No public comment.

9. Adjourn (3:35 PM)

As there was no quorum present, there was no formal motion to adjourn.