

AAERTF Meeting Notes
11/13/2023

1. Call to order

- a. Tanisha Fitzgerald-Baker called the meeting to order at 5:11 p.m.

2. Roll call

- a. Fitzgerald-Baker, Hardin, Miller, Lyons, Porter, Taylor, Underwood present
- b. Olds arrived at 5:17 p.m. during agenda item 6(b)

3. Approval of minutes on 9/11/2023

- a. Motion to approve by Miller, 2nd by Hardin, passed unanimously (7-0)

4. Staff reports – by Tiffani Toombs

- a. Final NLC Conference in Atlanta last month. Some philanthropic orgs. (including Kresge, Kellog, Rockefeller, Robert Wood Johnson Foundations) were there.
- b. NLC site visit at the Beck Center in Sept. was acknowledged as one of the best.
- c. Update on grants and funding will be coming at the December meeting.

5. Committee reports

- a. Committees met to discuss the draft of the strategic plan (to be discussed during the Task Force business section).

6. Guest speakers

- a. Stan Johnson – SEED
 - i. Representative not present; no presentation given
- b. Office of Sustainability (by Dawn Michelle Foster, Deputy Director of Office of Sustainability with the City)
 - i. EV Charging project and reduction of greenhouse gases per the City's 2008 initiative for City's operations, which was to have a 20% reduction by 2020; City exceeded that. Future goals:
 - 1. 50% by 2030 – this one still focuses on the City's operations
 - 2. 80% by 2050 – this one involves changes in the community and partners too, not just City operations.
 - ii. In 2011, City had a Sustainability Work Plan, which led the charge for the Mayor's Climate Council in Knoxville. A recommendation came out to update this work plan, and this was done in 2021. This helped identify strategies based on sectors of the City to reach the 2030 and 2050 goals.

- iii. There are approximately 50 public and private EV charging stations across the city. City wants to add more, so there was a survey recently to determine where to add them in a fair and equitable manner. The Dept. has also created a Sustainability Map to help with this process. Other initiatives include the possibility of a program allowing EV charging stations to be included on other infrastructure like utility poles.
 - 1. See City's website for Sustainability Department to view the EV Charging Site Public Survey and for more information.
 - iv. Discussion and Questions: Hardin, Underwood, Miller
 - c. Office of Sustainability (Alexandria Marsicovetere, Bloomberg Harvard City Hall Fellow with the City) on Project Zero
 - i. City of Knoxville Vision Zero Action Plan
 - ii. In 2021, Council passed a Vision Zero Action Plan to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries on City-controlled roads by 2040. Currently, City averages 34 fatal crashes annually.
 - 1. Approach: traffic deaths are preventable, integrate human failing in approach, prevent fatal and severe crashes, systems responsibility (as opposed to individual), etc.
 - 2. Knoxville ranked 25th most dangerous out of 172 mid-sized cities in 2020.
 - 3. Cities with Vision Zero policies saw an average of 32% reduction in traffic fatalities and a 29% reduction in bicyclist/pedestrian fatalities over 5 years.
 - 4. Action plan is on the City website and includes a high injury network map and segment list; crash profiles and countermeasures; strategies (30 including land use, design, etc.), and priority actions (including application for federal funds, streetscape projects, etc.).
 - iii. Discussion and Questions: Lyons, Underwood, Fitzgerald-Baker, Olds

7. Task Force business

- a. Strategic framework – presented by City's Community Safety and Empowerment Officer, LaKenya Middlebrook
 - i. Draft presented based on strategic planning session input. Last month, the committees provided some feedback, which has been incorporated. Called for additional notes and feedback to be provided by December 1st so that it can be

included in the documents for the December meeting. The goal is to take a vote on it during the December meeting.

- ii. Discussion and Questions: Olds, Porter, Fitzgerald-Baker, Underwood
 - iii. Reminder from Fitzgerald-Baker: committee meetings will be held after the Task Force meetings.
 - b. Black Business Directory – by George Underwood
 - i. Damon Rawls has put together this directory (see Buy Black Knox website); TF might want to consider inviting him to speak
8. Announcements
- a. Porter: NAACP Gala is on Saturday at 7:00 pm at The Change Center. Tickets \$75 which includes a year-long membership.
 - b. Porter: Burlington Business District meeting on December 5 at 5:00 p.m.
 - c. Porter: Burlington Christmas will be on 12/16 from 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 - d. Fitzgerald-Baker: TF should consider when it wants to attend events to have a presence and support these groups.
9. Public forum
- a. One person signed up, but nobody was present to speak
10. Adjournment
- a. Motion to adjourn by Miller; 2nd by Lyons; passed on unanimous vote (8-0)
11. Next meeting: December 11, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at Pellissippi Magnolia Campus