



**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
June 10, 2019 - 5:30 p.m.**

**Location:
City Council Chambers, City Hall, 3rd Floor
1528 Third Avenue, Rock Island, IL**

**COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: INTRODUCTION TO THE
ROCK ISLAND SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE**

Documents:

[INTRO TO SUSTAINABILITY STUDY SESSION 06-10-2019.PDF](#)

**COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: STATUS REPORT ON
ZONING AND SIGN ORDINANCE UPDATE**

Documents:

[ZONING AND SIGN ORDINANCE UPDATE COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
06-10-2019.PDF](#)

This agenda may be obtained in accessible formats by qualified persons with a disability by making appropriate arrangements from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, by contacting [City Clerk Judith Gilbert](#) at (309) 732-2010 or visiting in person at: 1528 Third Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201.



Sustainable Rock Island

An Initiative for a Leaner, Greener City Government



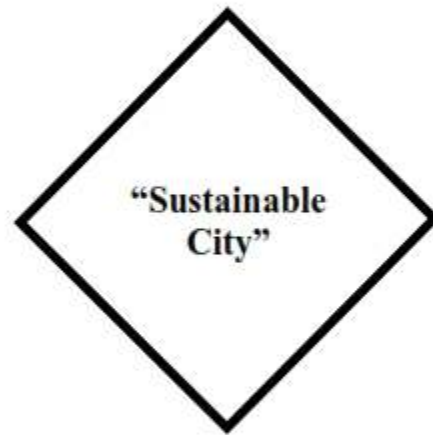
What is Sustainability?

- Making sure that we do not run out of resources in the future by better managing resource in the present.
- For cities, it is about decreasing waste, increase efficiency, maximizing assets, and making smart long term investments.
- More than just environmental stewardship, it is about many different things.

Sustainable City Model

Environmental Stewardship

Personal
Livability



Economic
Opportunity

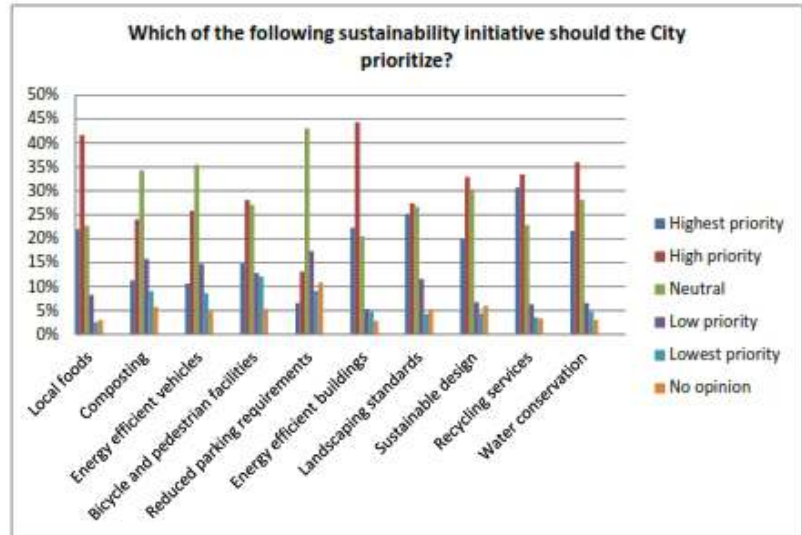
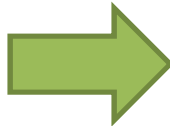
Community Building

Why are we talking about this?

Sustainability Initiatives

When asked whether and what type of sustainability initiatives the City should prioritize, respondents identified that "promoting local foods" should be a "high priority" (42%) or "highest priority" (22%), "promoting energy efficient buildings and site design" should be "high priority" (44%) or "highest priority" (22%), "promoting water conservation" should be "high priority" (36%) or "highest priority" (22%), and "increase recycling services, including residential, commercial, and construction materials" should be "high priority" (33%) or "highest priority" (31%). "Neutral" responses were given to "reduce parking requirements" (43%). Mixed responses ranging from "neutral" to "high priority" were indicated for "require bicycle and pedestrian facilities in new developments," and "strengthen landscaping requirements for new development." The following additional comments were provided regarding sustainability:

- The greenest buildings are the ones we already have; consider incentivizing rehabilitation of historic buildings as well as new construction.
- Potential partnership with Davenport for community composting; create biogas facility for maintenance and service vehicles.
- Promote the concept of "walkability."
- Promote west and southwest Rock Island as a destination for "green" companies; make Rock Island a beacon for smart energy.
- Invest in a larger recycling facility that accepts glass and has more accessible bins.
- Utilize solar and wind power.
- Enable the raising of backyard chickens.



Environment Impact Policy

The City of Rock Island recognizes responsible environmental stewardship as part of its mission in serving the citizens of this community. The City's environmental policy will create long-term environmental benefits and improve the overall quality of life.

Elements of the Policy

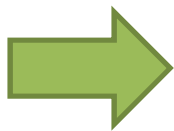
Key elements include the following:

- Environmental leadership
- Funding support from outside grants and other sources
- Communication / Education / Training
- Periodic audits of the environmental impact of City facilities and processes
- Develop and implement energy-efficient practices
- Promote sustainable programs and practices
- Promote green construction and development

Benefits of a Sustainable Environment

A sustainable environmental future means the City of Rock Island will:

- Minimize environmental impact when choosing locations for new projects
- Reduce community energy consumption and costs through efficient and healthy buildings
- Promote multi-modal transportation systems linking neighborhoods and business districts
- Promote sustainable products, including green building materials, high-efficiency building equipment and vehicles, alternative fuels, organic / locally produced food, and more
- Effectively manage stormwater
- Maximize the use of renewable energy sources
- Encourage recycling
- Maximize the use of environmentally friendly products



Plans for Updating the Policy

To continue making strides toward increased environmental sustainability, the City of Rock Island will regularly review and update the Environmental Impact Policy to include new technologies and best practices.

Why Are We Talking About This?

- The City has many programs and activities which could be described as “sustainable.”
- These are not marketed as such and are not coordinated at this time.
- We need to maximize what we are already doing and explore ways to become better.
- We need to sell Rock Island as a sustainable community.

Existing Programs & Activities

- Local food efforts including gardens, chickens, and bees.
- Walking and bicycling improvements.
- Tree planting cost share program.
- Rain garden program.
- Hybrid vehicle purchases.
- Pavement recycling.



Leading by Example: Government Policies

The City of Minneapolis is continuing to move towards more sustainable practices daily by creating and adopting new policies that work to improve the life of residents and city employees, as well as advance overall environmental quality. Some policy impact the way the City operates internally or provides services, such as street sweeping or installing solar panels on the roofs of city buildings. Other policies are community-wide and impact operations in the homes, schools, businesses, and places of worship in our neighborhoods. Click on the icons below to learn more about each policy.

City/Municipal Operations Policies



[Environmental Purchasing Policy \(2008\)](#)



[Indoor Temperature Policy \(2009, LEED Building Policy \(2006\) Rev. 2010\)](#)



[Low Environmental Impact Cleaning Policy \(2006\)](#)



[Minneapolis Pollinator Friendly Policy \(2015\)](#)



[Green Fleets Policy \(2011\)](#)



[Vegetation Management Policy \(2014\)](#)



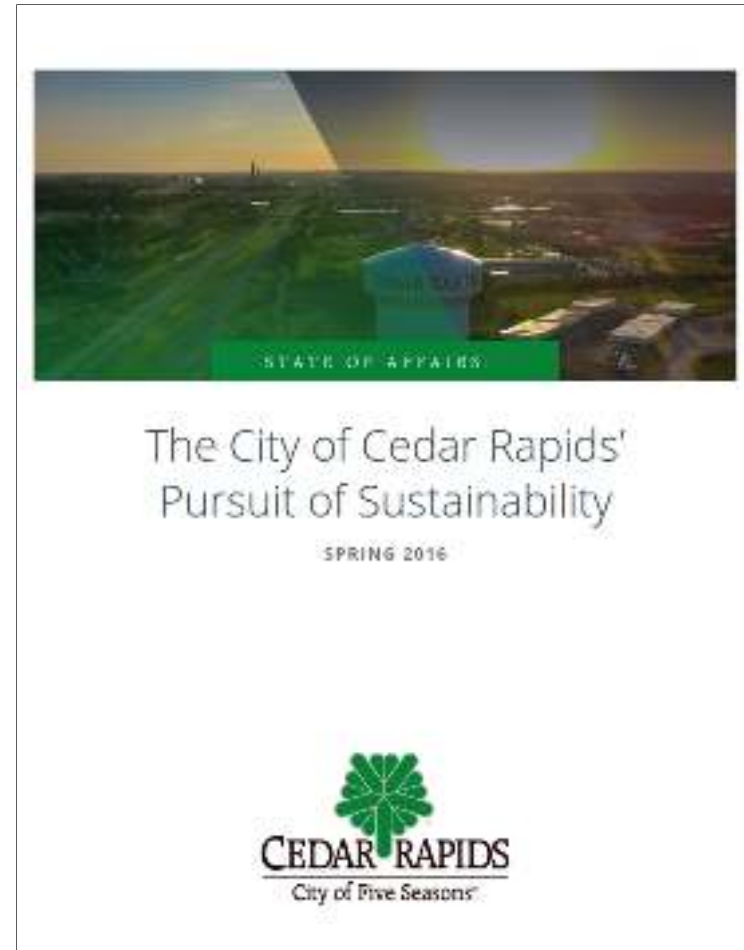
[Green Zones Policy \(2016\)](#)

Heartland Sustainability Network

- We are the newest member of the Heartland Sustainability Network, a regional member of the Urban Sustainability Directors Network.
- Larger cities pay for USDN membership, allowing smaller cities to “ride for free.”
- Benefits include sharing resources, policy ideas, and talking about issues that effect our region specifically. Peer to peer learning!

What We Propose

- Conduct an inventory of all ongoing programs and activities.
- Create a “state of affairs” document with a proposed sustainability policy.
- Longer term, conduct an in-depth self assessment using elements from STAR Communities framework.



Questions?



Zoning & Sign Ordinance Update

Status Report

The Project

- Following the adoption of the 2014 Comprehensive Plan, it was determined at the time that the Zoning Ordinance and the Sign Ordinance needed to be rewritten.
- Meant to be completed in late 2016, it is still not complete.
- Staff have evaluated the project and have a proposal for getting it done.

Project Timeline

- May 2015: CED put out RFQ.
- September 2015: Ancel Glink signed contract. Final products to be delivered by late 2016.
- February 2016: Public Engagement Plan
- April 2016: Key Issues Report
- November 2017: Planning Commission rejected proposed combination with Zoning Board.
- Late 2016 – Late 2018: Sections of a new code trickled in without annotations.

Project Timeline

- February 2019: Brainard and Fries took over project and requested a complete annotated draft document within thirty days.
- March 2019: Complete draft was delivered.
- April 2019 – May 2019: Staff reviewed the draft document.

The Draft Code

- Contains some helpful ideas, but it is not the right fit for our community.
- Increases administrative workload beyond what we can do.
- Increases the number of non-conformities, causing difficulties for property owners.
- Increases the number of special use cases.
- Various undefined terms, inconsistencies, and errors in the text.

How to Move Forward

- We propose terminating the contract with Ancel Glink and finishing the work ourselves, saving about \$33,000 in remaining project funds.
- Parts of the Ancel Glink draft can be incorporated into the updates, but the whole of it cannot be corrected in a timely or cost effective manner.
- Replacing the existing code is not beneficial. The existing code just needs common sense updates.

How We Will Do It

- Sign and Zoning Ordinances should remain separate but be updated concurrently.
- Set of short term updates need to be made to address pressing issues.
- Longer term, comprehensive update will take about a year to complete.
- “Staff work group” will be formed to help provide feedback along the way.

Short Term Updates

- Window Signs
- Nuisance Signs
- Parking on Unimproved Surfaces
- Alternative Energy (Solar)
- Cannabis
- Short Term Rentals



Long Term Updates

- Expanding defined terms.
- Clarifying language and removing any outdated text.
- Reducing the number of zones to a more manageable number.
- Incorporating some elements proposed by Ancel Glink meant to protect the City from legal challenges.

Summary

- We are at a good stopping place with Ancel Glink and should terminate the contract.
- The zoning and sign ordinance just need updating, not complete replacing.
- City staff will finish this project in two phases, short term fixes and a long term update. The long term update will take about a year.

Questions?