



# City of Aurora

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## Legistar History Report

**File Number: 19-0743**

**File ID:** 19-0743

**Type:** Petition

**Status:** Draft

**Version:** 2

**General  
Ledger #:**

**In Control:** Building, Zoning,  
and Economic  
Development  
Committee

**File Created:** 08/21/2019

**File Name:** 2019 Sustainability Plan - Sustainable Aurora  
Advisory Board

**Final Action:**

**Title:** A Resolution Approving Revisions to the City of Aurora Sustainability Plan to Enhance the Quality of Life for Present and Future Generations of Aurorans by Planning for Natural, Social and Economic Resilience. (City of Aurora - 19-0743 / KDWK-19.104-PZ/S - AM - Ward ) (PUBLIC HEARING).

**Notes:**

**Agenda Date:** 10/23/2019

**Agenda Number:**

**Sponsors:**

**Enactment Date:**

**Attachments:** Exhibit A - 2009 Sustainability Plan, Exhibit B - 2019 Sustainability Plan, Sustainability Plans 2009vs2019\_Comparison, Sustainability Plan Presentation, Legistar History Report - 2019-10-02 - 2019.104.pdf

**Enactment Number:**

**Planning Case #:** KDWK-19.104-PZ/S

**Hearing Date:**

**Drafter:** aminnella@aurora-il.org

**Effective Date:**

### History of Legislative File

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
1	City Council	09/24/2019	referred to	Planning Council	10/01/2019		
	<b>Action Text:</b> This Petition was referred to to the Planning Council						
1	Planning Council	10/01/2019	Forwarded	Planning Commission	10/16/2019		Pass
	<b>Action Text:</b> A motion was made by Mr. Minnella, seconded by Mrs. Vacek, that this agenda item be Forwarded to the Planning Commission, on the agenda for 10/16/2019. The motion carried by voice vote.						
	<b>Notes:</b> Mr. Minnella said I make a motion to move this to Planning Commission on October 16th. Mrs. Vacek seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.						

2	Planning Commission	10/16/2019	Forwarded	Building, Zoning, and Economic Development Committee	10/23/2019	Pass
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**Action Text:** A motion was made by Mr. Chambers, seconded by Mr. Hull, that this agenda item be Forwarded to the Building, Zoning, and Economic Development Committee, on the agenda for 10/23/2019. The motion carried.

**Notes:** *Mr. Minnella said as you may know, the City of Aurora has a very long history that embraces sustainability long before the approval and the adoption of the 2009 Aurora Sustainability Plan, back in 2001 and then again in 2006. In 2001 the city approved the Countryside Vision Plan and in 2006 the Riverfront Vision Plan. Then to seal the sustainability culture and the sustainability consciousness, the city approved the Sustainability Plan. But now we are in 2019 and the Sustainability Plan may appear to an average reader as an outdated document that already sees some of the projects outlined in that document already accomplished or out of date. Even the language itself doesn't speak to the present. So that's the reason why back in 2014 the City of Aurora also implemented the Sustainable Aurora Advisory Board, a group of sustainability minded people. We have some of them representing the Advisory Board here. I would like to acknowledge them and recognize them by name; Therese Voitik, Bernina Perkins and Karan Wan. There were some other members that were not able to attend the meeting tonight; Caryl Riley, Mavis Bates, John Monsma. This group of people started working in 2014 trying to find a way to update the Sustainability Plan in such a way that the plan could be for future generations to come and still be valid. This document, as of right now, consists of two different portions. The first one is the actual Sustainability Plan composed by six different focus areas and the second portion is the projects that the City of Aurora wanted to take on back on back in 2009. Many of those projects have been accomplished. Some of those projects are very futuristic. We hope that those projects will be completed someday, but we really need to face the need for something that can speak for futures to come without really being restricted to time. We need to have a timeless document. Therefore, the group extensively researched not only regional and national, but also international best practices. They are summarized in this document that is very easy to read. I'd like to ask the Commissioners if you had a chance to go through the document, the Sustainability Plan Update, and I would really love to hear from you a feedback and see if any of you had the same perception of a document that was easy to read, but that can be timeless because it is that guiding principle. I would like to give the members here in the audience the opportunity to speak about this plan and if you have questions we are here to answer your questions.*

*Mr. Cameron said maybe you can give a rundown of what the timeframe for the, I assume this has been relatively recently revised, but over what time? Has it been the last 3 years or does it go back to 2009?*

*Mr. Minnella said the previous plan of 2009 was approved. Over time, over the course of recent years up to 2014/2015 basically the plan was completed. Now in 2015 the group took over and tried to put in place best management practices that are the overarching goals for the City of Aurora. The Advisory Board included an additional three sections that speak to what the demand and what world-wide are considered crucial areas to focus on. I would really love to have Karen Wan, Bernina Perkins and Therese Voitik who were really behind this plan try to explain in detail every single section what those entail.*

*Mr. Cameron said I noticed an awful lot of crossing out. Did we end up with a document that was...*

*Mr. Minnella said that was my next point. You might see a bloody document, a redlined document. Now it will appear red almost entirely simply because we moved, even just moving a section might reflect in a bloody paragraph. That's also the reason why. What you see before you tonight is not the final product. This is a very lame word document that will be dressed up by our Public Information Office. This document will then include pictures, paragraphs, graphics and so forth.*

*The public input portion of the public hearing was opened. The witnesses were sworn in.*

*I'm Karen Wan. I was the person kind of in charge of pulling together all the different documents and*

*all the research back in 2016 when we really finalized this documents and for many different reasons, we haven't been able to get it to you until now. We worked with the Chicago Greenest Region Compact of the Mayor's Caucus to use their plan so that now our plan is now in in sync with the regional plans that are being developed throughout the region. We took their plan. We didn't take every single thing from their plan because some of the things just didn't apply to Aurora and then Alex helped us to add things the city was doing that weren't in the plan. So you've got some in ours that you wouldn't find in the Chicago Greenest Region Compact, but we did add three sections. One on climate change because that was in plans around the world and we thought we needed to do that. Social environmental justice was another one, making sure that sustainability didn't just happen for the richest of Aurorans, so that was across the city. And then resilience. We wanted to make sure that our city was prepared for whatever happens, particularly with climate change in the next 50 to 100 years. So we are trying to keep a bigger view of the future in mind. That is also why we made it simpler to read, so that as we make changes it won't have to come here every two years and say we need to change this part because it is raw enough that it really does apply for many, many years to come.*

*Mr. Minnella said I simply would like to add in the PowerPoint that is part of your Legistar packet we tried to summarize as much as possible and make this pill more digestible. This slide basically highlights what the new sections are going to be in the plan, so those are highlighted in red.*

*Mrs. Wan said and we didn't change the first six.*

*Mr. Minnella said and the other sections do not change. We simply took all the references to the past away because the goal of this Sustainability Plan Update is to make this plan timeless. That's the reason why the many references to the past were felt not needed in this plan. Bernina is going to pass out seed bombs.*

*Ms. Perkins said these are homemade seed bombs. It is a seed bomb made from dirt, compost and the seeds of four perennial pollinating plants from the region. The seeds were saved and the plants were previously grown in the city this summer. These are homemade. The purpose of a seed bomb is just to throw them wherever the sun shines, preferably a field, a yard, or a vacant lot, somewhere where you would like to see color, flowers and attract pollinators. Everything will biodegrade. You don't even have to water it. At the first rain, it will break down next year in the springtime and just start to grow.*

*Mr. Minnella said this is simply to signify the importance of sustainability in Aurora and around the world.*

*Mr. Cameron said I would only comment on the page that has proposed changes. The right side of the tree looks like most of them in Aurora after this last year.*

*Mrs. Duncan said I would just like to thank the Committee and all the people that worked on this. What you've done is put a living document together. So often we have plans that then sit on a shelf and never see the light of day, but somebody says do you have a Sustainability Plan and we say oh yes we do, but no one knows where it is or no one knows what it says. I think you have put this into great layman's terms and I think this is certainly such a current important issue for not only our city but for our world. I do want to acknowledge that your work is greatly appreciated and the format and structure that you've put it in is accessible and understandable. So thank you very much.*

*Mr. Minnella said I would like to point out that the City of Aurora, in particular the Advisory Board and our sustainability efforts, are seen as an example and a model by the City of Naperville and their Sustainability Committee.*

*Ms. Tidwell said can I just say, I see that these were handmade, so whoever did that, thank you.*

*Mr. Deligiannis said the question is procedural. I noticed tonight that the Primos Tacos attorney and the ladies here, the Petitioners were all asked to be sworn, as I was, thank you. The Aurora University attorney was not asked to be sworn. You opened up the commentary period after the*

*Primos Taco period for a public commentary as here for their wonderful presentation by this group. Is there any particular reason why the AU attorney was not sworn in and why after that petition it wasn't opened up to public commentary?*

*Chairman Pilmer said I'll go ahead and answer that. Depending on the legislative action need, for instance the first item on the agenda was a Final Plat and the second one was a Revision to a Final Plan. Those do not require a public hearing per the Zoning Ordinance. The last two items on the agenda were both the requirement of a public hearing, so thus when a public hearing is required, individuals that speak before the Commission have to be sworn in and then it is opened up for public comment to as many people that want to speak. There is no time limit on that and then we do close the public hearing. At the beginning of our meeting and really, I believe, every city meeting we are required to allow public comment and that is part of the Illinois Open Meeting Act and that is limited to 3 minutes and you don't have to be sworn in for that. Anyone can speak to the Commission or any city committee regarding really any item whether it is on the agenda or not.*

*Mr. Deligiannis said so you are stating that the petition by Aurora University did not require them to be sworn in?*

*Chairman Pilmer said correct. That's a Final Plan and it doesn't require for them to be sworn in. All the minutes are taken and they are on the record and part of the minutes.*

*Mr. Deligiannis said again these are procedural issues, just as a novice to the process asking the questions. If those are the rules then those are the rules, but appearance-wise it doesn't combined with the previous presentation by AU. I just wanted to bring that to your attention. Thank you.*

*The public input portion of the public hearing was closed.*

*Mr. Minnella said staff would recommend approval of the Resolution approving Revisions to the City of Aurora Sustainability Plan to enhance the quality of life for present and future generations of Aurorans by planning for natural, social and economic resilience.*

**MOTION OF APPROVAL WAS MADE BY: Mr. Chambers**

**MOTION SECONDED BY: Mr. Hull**

**AYES: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Chambers, Mr. Divine, Mrs. Duncan, Mr. Elsbree, Mr. Hull, Mr. Reynolds, Ms. Tidwell**

**NAYS: None**

*Mr. Minnella said this will next be heard at the Building, Zoning and Economic Development Committee on Wednesday, October 23, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. on the fifth floor of this building.*

**Aye: 8** At Large Cameron, Aurora Twnshp Representative Reynolds, Fox Metro Representative Divine, SD 204 Representative Duncan, Fox Valley Park District Representative Chambers, SD 131 Representative Hull, At Large Tidwell and At Large Elsbree

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