STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: February 28, 2023

Subject: Sustainability Advisory Committee on Energy and the Environment (SACEE) name change and membership appointment requirements

Staff Resource(s): Bridget Herring, Sustainability Director

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution to provide for at-large appointment of all SACEE members, and change SACEE's name to Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC)

Background:

- City Council established SACEE in 2006 as a nine-member committee to advise Council on issues of environmental and energy sustainability. Resolution 06-171 specified that five members were to be at-large appointments while the other four had to represent "specific economic and community sectors":
    - one with expertise in energy management;
    - one involved with the operation of a business in Asheville;
    - one employed in the construction industry in Asheville; and
    - one employed in real estate development in Asheville.

- At this time, no SACEE member is employed in real estate development.
- SACEE recommends that Council amend these requirements to provide that all SACEE members be appointed at-large.
- SACEE also recommends that Council consider simplifying SACEE's name to Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC).

Council Goal(s):

- A Clean and Healthy Environment

Committee(s):

- Sustainability Advisory Committee on Energy and the Environment, January 18, 2023 voted 7-0
- Boards and Commission Council Committee, February 14, 2023 voted 3-0, to recommend to the full City Council changing the committee's appointments from specific designations to at-large and to change the committee's name to the Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC)

Pro(s):

- Eliminating the current restrictions on SACEE member appointments will give Council the needed flexibility to select members who are best qualified to advise Council on the range of sustainability issues faced by the City now and in the future.
- Although the descriptor "on Energy and the Environment " in SACEE's name has not limited the scope of SACEE's activities to date, dropping the descriptor would simplify the name and remove any perceived restrictions on the scope of issues within SACEE's purview.

Con(s):

- None

Fiscal Impact:

- This action requires no additional City resources and has no fiscal impact.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution to provide for at-large appointment of all SACEE members, and change SACEE's name to Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC)

Attachment(s):

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 23-____

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS FOR, AND NAME OF, THE SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & THE ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS, per City Council Resolution No. 06-171, City Council established a nine-member committee known as the “Sustainable Advisory Committee on Energy and the Environment” and established restrictions on certain Committee member appointments; and

WHEREAS, City Council Resolutions 06-171, 06-215 and 11-58 specify that the Committee has designated seats to be appointed by City Council which (have) included: one with expertise in energy management; one involved with the operation of a business in Asheville; one employed in the construction industry in Asheville; and one employed in real estate development in Asheville; one member employed by Progress Energy, which was then amended to adding an ex-officio non-voting member for the electric power utility serving the City of Asheville; and

WHEREAS, the Committee has recommended, and City Council agrees, that eliminating the current restrictions on member appointments will give Council the needed flexibility to select members who are best qualified to advise Council on the range of sustainability issues faced by the City now and in the future; and

WHEREAS, per City Council Resolution No. 15-40, City Council changed the name of the “Sustainable Advisory Committee on Energy & the Environment” to the “Sustainability Advisory Committee on Energy & the Environment”; and

WHEREAS, the Committee has recommended, and City Council agrees, that the Committee’s name should be simplified to “Sustainability Advisory Committee”;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

The name of the “Sustainability Advisory Committee on Energy & the Environment” shall be changed to “Sustainability Advisory Committee”; and

Membership requirements will be amended to require that the nine seats of the Committee shall all be at-large appointments.

Read, approved and adopted this the 28th day of February, 2023.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

City Attorney