

Sustainability Commission Minutes

Monday, March 7, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Mission City Hall

In attendance: Manny Trillo, John Arnett, Terri Baugh, David Greenlee, Andy Hyland, Bill Nichols, Paul Pattee

Guests: Sadie Gardner, Johnson County Dept. of Health and Environment

Staff present: Emily Randel

I. Welcome and Introductions

The group welcomed Sadie Gardner from Johnson County Department of Health and Environment

II. Certified Green Businesses Partners Program, Sadie Gardner, Johnson County Department of Health and Environment

Sadie Gardner shared a presentation on the Certified Green Businesses Partners Program. The program offers free technical assistance and up to \$500 in materials to businesses, schools and multi-family residential complexes interested in greening their business practices. The Land Source in Mission was one in the first group of businesses to receive recognition at a County Commissioner meeting last month. Terri Baugh attended that meeting and then visited the business at their location on Johnson Drive between Broadmoor and Metcalf.

Sadie shared that businesses are approaching the County for this service, showing that the demand and interest exists. The program is entirely voluntary and is both rewarding businesses for efforts they have already made and showing businesses how to improve their systems in new ways. Improvements can be in a wide range of categories, including, for example, installing new lighting or HVAC systems, increasing recycling and reducing waste stream materials, or even advocacy.

The group discussed the parallels between the County's program and the goals of the Sustainability Scorecard for existing businesses. The County program offers a much higher degree of oversight and technical expertise. The group agreed to finalize the Scorecard and promote it to businesses and the public, while promoting the County's program as appropriate.

Sadie Gardner and Paul Pattee left the meeting after this agenda item.

III. Approval of February 1, 2016 minutes

Terri Baugh moved to approve the minutes and Andy Hyland seconded the motion. The group passed the minutes unanimously.

IV. Sustainability Commission Budget Update

Emily Randel shared a budget update for expenses to date in 2016. The total expenses in 2016 are still just the two battery recycling boxes for \$120.

Total remaining funds for 2016: \$4,880

Battery Recycling

Emily shared an update on the battery recycling. Since placing the collection box at the Community Center on February 17 and announcing the recycling on social media and in the Mission Magazine, the City has received approximately the equivalent of 4-5 boxes worth of batteries. Residents have brought in batteries they have collected over multiple years, not knowing where to recycle them, but not wanting to throw them into the trash.

Since seeing the high interest in the recycling program, Emily has been looking into alternatives. If staff or commissioners are willing to sort the alkaline batteries, Midwest Recycling Center will recycle them for \$1/pound which is less expensive than The Big Green Box. Terri Baugh referred the group back to her page of recycling alternatives she had compiled. Midwest Recycling appears to offer a better rate, as low as \$0.43/pound. Emily suggested that the group could offer the recycling only a few times per year, but the group agreed that would be discouraging to those bringing batteries in the off-months and being turned away. John Arnett expressed an interest in being able to continue to accept all types of batteries, and even portable electronics as the current Big Green Box system allows.

Emily asked the group if anyone would be willing to sort the alkaline batteries if needed and to deliver the batteries to a recycling facility. Manny, David and John offered their assistance. Emily suggested that an even more sustainable option would be to promote the use of reusable batteries, reducing the waste that is generated and using a battery type which is easier to recycle and less expensive or free compared to alkaline recycling.

Emily asked the Sustainability Commission for a recommendation on how much to support the effort. Andy Hyland made a motion to recycle at the lowest possible price the batteries that have been collected and that are collected until the April 4th meeting at which time Emily will provide the group with another update on the volume of batteries still being collected. Bill Nichols seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Sustainability Commission nametags

Terri had asked Emily if the Commissioners could have nametags that would identify them at public events. Emily shared that the City has previously ordered nametags for board and commission members as well as for City Councilmembers. The nametags cost approximately \$10. John Arnett moved that the Sustainability Commission purchase nametags for all Sustainability Commissioners in good standing. Andy Hyland seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mission Farm and Flower Market Voucher Program

Bill asked if there was an update on the market voucher program. Andy Hyland shared that at the Farmers Market Advisory Committee meeting, he had shared the idea with the group, and

that a sub-committee would be forming to work out the details of how to promote the program and distribute the vouchers.

V. Scorecard follow-up discussion

The group reiterated the desire to continue with the development of the Sustainability Scorecard and promote it to businesses and the public and also promote the County's recognition program as appropriate.

VI. Adjourn

David Greenlee moved to adjourn the meeting and Terri Baugh seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

The Sustainability Commission will meet on Monday, April 4 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.