

MINUTES OF THE MISSION SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Monday, August 3, 2020 - 6:30 P.M.

Held virtually, via ZOOM

In attendance: John Arnett, Terri Baugh, Cathy Boyer-Shesol, David Greenlee, Andy Hyland, Alexis Penny, Josh Thede

Council Liaison present: Councilmember Sollie Flora

Staff present: Emily Randel, Assistant to the City Administrator

Guests present: Liz Harris, Marketing and Events Coordinator, BikeWalkKC

I. Welcome and introductions

Alexis Penny welcomed everyone to the meeting and the group members introduced themselves to Liz Harris, Marketing and Events Coordinator with BikeWalkKC.

II. New Business - Lamar Bike Lanes

The group had discussed doing something to mark and promote the opening of the Lamar Avenue bike lanes. Alexis Penny and Josh Thede had discussed some options for their promotion, including a safe, outdoors event that could be an appropriate celebration for 2020. Alexis provided a summary of ideas, including a safety course, sponsored by the Sustainability Commission, on how to use the bike lanes safely. Pre-registration would be required. Local elected officials would be invited, and a selfie station would be available for photos with bikes, encouraging promotions with a shared hashtag. A staging area would be available at the Community Center or at the Johnson County building on Lamar Avenue. Josh Thede shared a history of the Safe Routes to School project, and reminded the group that the Sustainability Commission had the promotion of the bike lanes on the goals list for 2019. Liz Harris confirmed that when a City builds a road section for the most vulnerable users, such as young students, it is beneficial for everyone. Laura Steele has been briefed on the ideas, as she would be tied in for the education pieces of the effort. BikeWalkKC has been doing some very controlled in-person events during the pandemic. Andy Hyland asked Liz Harris if the plans were missing any ideas that she has seen be successful. Liz Harris recommended inviting the media including Charlie Keegan with KSHB. The biking story is so popular nationally right now, and everyone is looking for a local angle for that story. She really encouraged education pieces, because the road is changing and will be slightly narrower, she recommended including the history and how it helps other populations, including school children. Tour de Bier August 15-September 15, Sandhills is the first Mission brewery to be included in the Tour.

Josh Thede asked about trip counters. Emily Randel shared that the City now owns a counter, and that ideally, counters would be set up at 51st Street and Martway Street for about a week before the bike lanes go in.

*Action Item: Liz Harris will work with Emily Randel for a blog post highlighting the event. There are some counters available that we can use for this purpose. BikeWalkKC shared that they have very sensitive counters.

Emily Randel will coordinate with BikeWalkKC about their ideal dates, to be approved via email. Andy Hyland and Emily Randel will coordinate on the media.

Motion: Andy Hyland proposed a plan to approve up to \$200 for expenses related to promotion of the event. Cathy Boyer-Shesol seconded. The motion passed. Alexis Penny volunteered to make the selfie station/photo booth.

III. Approval of the July 13, 2020 meeting minutes

Andy Hyland moved to approve the July 13, 2020 meeting minutes. Terri Baugh suggested the correction, that Battery Solutions will take the lead acid batteries, but they must be taped. Andy Hyland moved to approve the amended minutes and Josh Thede seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IV. Old Business -

- Battery Recycling - Emily Randel shared that there are a lot of batteries that need to be sorted.

*Action Item: Terri Baugh and John Arnett will come during business hours to sort the batteries.

V. New Business

- Magazine Articles - Biking will be in the next issues of the magazine. It would be good to expand this to include connectivity, curb cuts and ADA ramps. Topics that have been included in knowledge share presentations would also make good articles such as the history of Earth Day, state of recycling, and plastic bag recycling creating lumber products. Terri Baugh shared that due to the grocery stores not accepting reusable bags right now, the plastic bags in the recycling stream has really increased.

*Action Items: Terri Baugh and Andy Hyland will coordinate an article on this plastic bag issue, and have a draft in two weeks, by August 17.

*Alexis Penny will share the waste audit number.

*Terri Baugh will check for additional locations for where to recycle the bags and will collect photos of both a recycling location and a picture of the bags getting caught in the collectors.

Alexis Penny will keep the magazine article brainstorming on future meeting agendas.

- Recycling Sub-Committee Update
 - Smart Recycling Class - This item has been tabled recently.
 - Door Hangers - Tom Coffman took the door hanger draft to the recycling manager for approval from WCA. Terri Baugh asked the designer if the Ditch the Bag logo could be added to the door hanger. Alexis Penny repeated the wish to brand the door hanger with the Sustainability Commission logo and the website url. Terri Baugh shared that because it

is Missouri funds supporting the work, they will not include the Mission logo. Instead, Terri shared that we will have a sticker made to add it to the flyer. Andy Hyland and John Arnett shared that they did not want to do anything that would reflect poorly on Mission. David Greenlee suggested that it would be important to include a way to reach the Sustainability Commission. Cathy Boyer-Shesol offered to reach out to the MARC Public Affairs team contact to confirm with them what was appropriate.

*Action item: Recycling Sub-committee to discuss possible alternatives for the door hanger design and message.

- CFAA Sub-Committee Update - Cathy Boyer-Shesol and Josh Thede will be attending the first comprehensive plan update on Thursday of this week. Universal Design is a goal to include in some fashion in 2020. Emily Randel shared that the Communities for All Ages recognition cities and MARC are discussing the creation of a tool kit/idea book that would highlight Universal Design concepts for residential application. The tool kit would likely cost \$10,000, would be only available in electronic format, and the cost would be spread across the participating cities. Roeland Park has pledged support already. Cathy Boyer-Shesol shared that there will be a Universal Design workshop in November.

*Action item: Emily Randel and Cathy Boyer-Shesol will meet in the next two weeks to review the SMART goals from the assessment with department heads for review and consideration of next steps. For future magazines, Cathy Boyer-Shesol suggested branded content around Communities for All Ages with the tagline of “A great place to grow up and grow old.” The next sub-committee meeting will be August 31.

- Parks, Recreation, and Tree Commission Update - Terri Baugh provided an update from the Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission meeting in July. The Sustainability Commission discussed how the two groups could work together in the future.
- Sustainability Lens Sub-Committee Update - Alexis Penny and Josh Thede will be wordsmithing the questions that complement the Climate Action Plan. They will provide some example impact statements. A draft will be ready in the September meeting.
- Council Liaison Update - Councilmember Flora shared an update. Councilmember Kring and Flora are the two councilmember liaisons to the comprehensive plan steering committee. Councilmember Flora shared the items for the August Community Development Committee and Finance and Administration Committee. Highlights include the stormwater improvement plan and the street maintenance program as well as the adoption of the building code.

The standards get updated every three years, but the cities in the metro typically update them every six years. Mission would be looking at the 2018 codes at the time when the 2021 codes are coming out. Sollie shared that the Overland Park group watered down the codes less than other cities in the metro. Josh shared a recommendation to review the 2021 codes. Josh Thede shared the desirability of having more uniform codes across the metro for competitiveness. Overall, Josh is fairly comfortable with the 2018 recommendations, with the exception of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). The 2021 makes a 10% jump in recommendations.

- Comprehensive Plan Update - Josh Thede shared about the project process, restarting with a steering committee meeting on Thursday this week. Josh Thede and Cathy Boyer-Shesol will both participate in the process. Josh would like to be a voice for the entire group and will be seeking input from the group, and will share back.

VI. Reminders and announcements

Terri Baugh moved to support Josh to attend the Innovations in Naturally Affordable housing at the individual rate registration fee at the cost of \$80. John Arnett seconded the motion. Josh Thede will share what he learns to the group.

VII. Review of action items

Alexis Penny shared well wishes from Zora Stewart-Jones whose term expired at the end of July. Zora has decided not to continue with an additional term. Everyone expressed their appreciation for Zora's time on the Commission, and how impressed they have been at her contributions. Alexis Penny will reach out to Zora to see if she can recommend any other student representatives.

VIII. Adjourn

Andy Hyland moved to adjourn the meeting. Terri Baugh seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Sustainability Commission will be on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.