

Sustainability Commission Minutes

Monday, April 3, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Mission City Hall

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

Absent: Steve Mulder, Sean Partain

Staff present: Emily Randel

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Approval of the March 6, 2017 minutes

Andy Hyland moved to approve the minutes. Terri Baugh seconded the motion. The group approved the minutes.

III. Sustainability Scorecard Review: Dial Development Project

The City received notice on Friday, March 31 that Dial Development was no longer pursuing the project in Mission. The group did not discuss the project further. The EPC Real Estate project at 6201 Johnson Drive has been invited to speak to the Commission, likely at the May 1 meeting.

IV. Jaycie Timms, Shawnee Mission East student and Girl Scout on raising hens

Jaycie Timms spoke to the group about her Girl Scouts Gold Project. Jaycie's goal is to increase awareness about backyard chickens to local families. She sees the benefits of raising chickens as the increased availability of fresh eggs from a more humane source than conventional agriculture and she also promoted chicken as good "garden helpers" eating bugs and tilling soil with their claws. Jaycie has worked with the City of Roeland Park that has offered classes on backyard chickens as part of their homesteading series. Jaycie hosted a Hen 101 class at Mack Hardware this year. The supplies to raise chickens are available for sale at the store, and class participants received a discount.

The group asked what Jaycie thought of Mission's Accessory Animal permit. She thought that the restriction to keep chicken coops a minimum of 10 feet away from property line should be considered on a case-by-case basis. Some lots in Mission are configured in such a way to make raising hens impossible under that restriction, even though there would be a very slim chance of negatively impacting neighbors. Jaycie also made the case for Mission to have a higher profile at events like the Healthy Yards Expo held on April 1 in Shawnee. She observed other cities participating to promote things like rain barrel programs, and thought that Mission programs could benefit from that same exposure. The group suggested that Jaycie could host a tent at the farmers market this season to educate visitors on raising backyard chickens.

V. Budget Review

Purchase	Cost	Month Reported
Big Green Box replacements (5)	\$261	April - Reported mistakenly as \$252
Battery Sorting Disposable Gloves (40)	\$5.76	April
TOTAL SPENT: \$266.76 TOTAL REMAINING: \$4,733.24		

VI. Battery Recycling Review

Bill Nichols expressed concern about what is known about The Big Green Box company and brought it up for the group’s consideration. No action was taken at the meeting on this issue.

VII. Review of writing assignment responses

Emily Randel shared the group members’ responses to the writing assignment from the March meeting. Each member provided a review of his/her responses to the following questions:

What do I want to see the group improve in Mission?

How should we make a difference?

And thinking ahead to the end of 2017: At the end of the year, what did we do to make Mission more sustainable?

The consensus was that a retreat of some kind would be helpful to strategize about the group’s overall goals and priorities, rather than to just take individual projects out of the context of broader plan. The group targeted Monday, May 8 from 5-8 p.m. at City Hall, to be confirmed, based on EPC’s availability to present to the group at the regular meeting date of May 1.

VIII. New Business

During the discussion of group goals, Bill Nichols shared the idea to use Sustainability Commission funds to purchase home fire extinguishers to give to Mission residents at the Mission Farm and Flower Market. The group recommended that the project be tabled until after the strategic discussion.

Emily Randel shared that the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Committee membership is being formed. Mayor Schowengerdt will select members from each of the boards and commissions. Residents interested in representing a ward seat should apply by Monday, April 10 with a letter of interest.

A meeting with BikeWalkKC is scheduled for April 11 at 6 p.m. at the Community Center. Three residents have expressed interest in attending, including Terri Baugh from the Sustainability Commission. Emily will send out a reminder email this week, but intends to go forward, even with this smaller group. Emily and Terri will report back in May on the outcomes of the meeting.

The members participating in the JoCoGo scavenger hunt on May 18 renamed their team “The Atomic Fireballs.” Emily will submit the new name to the group organizers.

IX. Adjourn

Manny moved to adjourn the meeting. Terri seconded the motion. The meeting ended at 8:38 p.m.

The Sustainability Commission will meet on Monday, May 1 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.