

## **Sustainability Commission Minutes**

Monday, October 7, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Mission City Hall

**DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED**

In attendance: Terri Baugh, David Greenlee, Andy Hyland, Sean Partain, Alexis Penny, Josh Thede, Manny Trillo

Council Liaisons present: Councilmember Sollie Flora, Councilmember Debbie Kring

Guests: Johnson County Commissioner Becky Fast, John Blessing, Waste Management, Lynn Bain, resident

Staff present: Emily Randel

### I. Welcome and introductions - 5 minutes

Josh Thede welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### II. Johnson County Commissioner Becky Fast - Johnson County Solid Waste Management Plan - 30 minutes

Johnson County Commissioner Becky Fast wanted to visit the Sustainability Commission to learn what the group is doing, and to share about some of the work at the County. The County Commission passed the update to the Solid Waste Management Plan in September. The update is required every five years and looks to the upcoming 25 years. The Shawnee landfill has 23 years estimated until it reaches capacity. She shared that there are some very progressive aspects in the plan, though the Commission is split on focusing on education versus regulation to make the biggest change. While most may think the majority of the waste is from residential sources, 75% of the waste is in commercial, construction, multi-family. Education efforts have been weighed too heavily toward residential based on those numbers. As recycling standards become more stringent, it is more and more confusing. The City of Olathe is really narrowing what they accept to counteract contamination and to streamline messaging and education. Residential recycling has doubled over the last 10 years, in part because of the prohibition of disposal of yard waste in the landfill. Separating yard waste from trash intended for the landfill was very controversial in the beginning, but now is very well adopted.

One of the big changes in the Solid Waste Management plan is the licensing of commercial haulers and will be licensing multi-family. The City of Lenexa is the only city that has already licensed multi-family. The City of Lenexa has started working with licensing multi-commercial. One of the recommendations in the plan is for the County to develop some materials to assist other cities in doing the same. The school districts have done good work, especially in reducing food waste at schools.

Mission has so many multi-family units, that it may be a key strategy in making a significant impact. Developing large-scale composting is not included in this plan. The County will be looking into how to assess that for the future. Prairie Village is still looking into a small contract for this service, actually under consideration this month.

Councilmember Flora asked if the County has looked into ranking the sustainable practices of the haulers. Commissioner Fast answered that she did not believe so.

Commissioner Fast suggested that there could be work done to encourage recycled components through funding incentives such as the CARS program.

### III. Waste Management Green Grant - John Blessing - 15 minutes

John Blessing reviewed the waste audit of the recycling last year. Waste Management's Green Grant program focused on education targeted to the #DitchtheBag campaign. John Blessing reported that the \$700 that was requested was awarded. The recycling subcommittee will be reviewing the details of spending the funding.

### IV. Approval of the September 3, 2019 meeting minutes - 5 minutes

Andy Hyland moved to approve the September 3, 2019 meeting minutes. Terri Baugh seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### V. Old Business

- MKCCAC Climate Action Summit Debrief - 20 minutes

The coordinating group has been renamed Climate Action KC. The Sustainability Commission members who attended shares their strongest takeaways from the event. Everyone appreciated that the City of Mission had such a strong showing of participation.

- Manny Trillo shared that everyone is doing certain things, but we need to join together as we take action.
- Alexis shared that social equity is so important to be considered when discussing this issue. Councilmember Flora Climate Action KC Equity Advisory Council has been formed.
- Alexis took away a strong emphasis on native plantings.
- Andy Hyland was emboldened that so many other people are interested and care about this issue, and felt like it really might actually matter because of the people who were in attendance.
- Terri Baugh shared that she was impacted the worldly impact.
- Councilmember Flora was impacted by chances to work together and to collaborate.
- Councilmember Kring reminded the group to think about successful movements that have made an impact in history, to not be discouraged, like anti-littering campaign.
- Josh Thede shared the interesting framing of the Faith and the Moral Imperative panel. Hope doesn't mean much without action, so the Drawdown discussion was very inspiring. Regenerative practices to take us not just back, but even further back to a truly healthy planet.
- Emily Randel shared that, as mentioned at the actual breakout session, the "emerging" trends for cities are not emerging. There are a lot of well-tested

practices that are still available to cities to make a difference. Also, she has been reading Melinda Gates' book *The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World* that emphasizes educating girls, which really struck home when educating girls, when combined with family planning is predicted to be the most impactful strategy recommended in *Drawdown*.

- Andy Hyland shared that Cooper Martin from the National League of Cities said was the summit were on a different level from what he usually sees.
- Commissioner Fast was inspired by the best practices to shifting to green buildings.

- Global Covenant of Mayor's Climate Leadership Project Debrief - 5 minutes

Emily Randel attended the opening session to the Global Covenant of Mayor's Climate Leadership Project on October 1. There is more information on the Mid-America Regional Council website [here](#). The work will include a Greenhouse Gas Inventory, a Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, both due by the end of 2019, as well as a workshop in March 2020, and a Climate Action Plan by September 2020. The community engagement plan is still being developed.

- Compost Education Event Debrief - 5 minutes

Terri Baugh shared that we had 25 people attend the event. Stan did a very nice job with the presentation. The projector was crooked and the maintenance staff was adjusting the projector after the presentation. Easy to do and promote, but Emily Randel recommends to not do too many per year, so that it seems special. Most people stayed until the end.

- Bike/ Pedestrian Count Debrief - 5 minutes

Sean Partain shared the information from the pedestrian counts. The data has been shared with the national group. Sean shared a summary of the information as they compared Johnson Drive, to Martway and Lamar and then near to Target. Alexis Penny shared her experience at the Lamar Avenue and Johnson Drive intersection. The group thanked Sean for coordinating the counts.

- Sunflower Festival Preparation - 10 minutes

Alexis shared the costume for the parade that will center around the #DitchtheBag campaign. The Sustainability Commission will walk with their banner and will push polycarts on the parade. Alexis and Emily will coordinate on purchasing Nerds and Dots to hand out.

Alexis Penny moved to purchase no more than \$50 worth of candy. Sean Partain seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Josh Thede asked the group if they would like to have a booth such as the Sustainability Commission recycling table. The group agreed.

- Adopt a street reschedule - 5 minutes

Terri Baugh will send an email to reschedule the event.

- Sustainability Commission Retreat October - 5 minutes

The event is set for Tuesday for October 22, at 5:30 p.m. Josh Thede and Alexis Penny are creating a preparation packet for the retreat.

The Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center seems to be the favored option for retreat location. Alexis Penny moved to spend \$80 room rental fee, plus \$500 damage deposit. Andy Hyland seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Alexis Penny moved that the group spend no more than \$14 per person for dinner at the retreat. Terri Baugh seconded the motion. The menu will be a meatless dinner to be in line with one of the Drawdown solutions, reducing carbon emissions through plant based meal choices. The motion carried.

- Battery Recycling Materials - 5 minutes

Alexis Penny shared the label for the battery recycling buckets.

#### VI. New Business

- Budget Review for 2019 - 5 minutes

Emily Randel will share a detailed report for the retreat. She shows \$823 spent so far in 2019.

- Environmental Fair - 5 minutes

Terri Baugh shared the concept of the Environmental Fair in the north gym at the Community Center on Saturday, April 25. Emily Randel will check the date for April 25 for room availability.

#### VII. Reminders and announcements - 2 minutes

- Sunflower Festival, October 12
- Sustainability Commission Retreat - October 22 at 5:30 P.M.
- Stuti Dalal's term on the Sustainability Commission expired at the end of July. She sent a note sharing how much she enjoyed working with the commission. The group shared a big thank you to Stuti, especially for attending along with her very busy schedule.
- Vacancies - Mayor Appletoft will make appointments to fill most of the vacancies on the boards and commissions at the October 16 City Council meeting.
- Councilmember Kring and Kathy Lockard did a litter pick-up with fourth graders at Rushton between the school and Lamar then to 51st Street to Dearborn.
- Walk to School Day was October 2.

#### VIII. Review of action items

#### IX. Adjourn

Terri Baugh moved to adjourn the meeting. Andy Hyland seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Sustainability Commission will be on Monday, November 4, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at Mission City Hall.