

Sustainability Commission Minutes

Monday, November 4, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Mission City Hall

In attendance: John Arnett, Terri Baugh, Cathy Boyer-Shesol, David Greenlee, Andy Hyland, Zora Stewart-Jones, Josh Thede, Manny Trillo

Council Liaisons present: Councilmember Sollie Flora, Councilmember Debbie Kring

Guests: Charlie Troppito, Planning Commissioner, Robin Dukelow, Planning Commissioner

Staff present: Emily Randel

I. Welcome and introductions

Josh Thede welcomed everyone to the meeting. The group welcomed Cathy Boyer-Shesol as a newly appointed member of the Sustainability Commission. Cathy lives in Ward IV.

II. Approval of the October 7, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Terri Baugh moved to approve the October 7, 2019 meeting minutes. Manny Trillo seconded the motion. The motion passed.

III. Old Business

○ Waste Management Green Grant - Encumbering Funds

Terri Baugh reported that the recycling sub-committee met on Sunday, November 3. The sub-committee recommends a door hanger promotional piece that Sustainability Commission members would hang on doors to educate on the Ditch the Bag information. Josh Thede shared the background information on the Sustainability Commission receiving the grant award from Waste Management for \$700 in Green Grant funds has been deposited. Emily Randel mentioned that in order to encumber the funds for spending 2020, a vendor is typically identified. The group feels it is likely that the printing will be done at Moss Printing. Emily Randel will share the number of households in Mission. The group would like the information will go to apartment residents as well and will ask permission from property managers. Zora Stewart-Jones shared information about Key Club at Shawnee Mission North High School that takes on a service project each month. She will also ask the yearbook committee about adding a version of the information in the monthly newsletter.

○ Retreat Wrap-Up

Josh Thede thanked everyone for attending the retreat. Josh Thede shared via email before the meeting a summary of the ideas generated at the Sustainability retreat. Josh asked for main themes or big picture items following the retreat. For his part, Josh felt that the retreat supported the activities that are already underway and set some good goals for the future.

Josh Thede, Andy Hyland and David Greenlee, and likely Alexis Penny will work together to synthesize and format the retreat information in a way that can be presented beyond the group. Councilmember Kring focused on the communication strategy on how to roll out consistent messaging to the public.

Terri Baugh reiterated the importance of the Sustainability Commission having a say in City projects and decisions such as the solid waste collection project.

- Review of goals tracking sheet

The leaders of each sub-committee meeting should be updating the goals tracking sheet to keep it accurate to the group's activities. The group reviewed the tracking sheet. There was a discussion about the process of the Sustainability Scorecard. Terri Baugh asked if the group would like to reach out to the Cameron Development group to present an updated Sustainability Scorecard for the Gateway project. Emily Randel and Josh Thede will reach out with the invitation.

A discussion followed about how to interact with the City's internal processes. (Purchasing, energy upgrades, enhanced recycling goals.) A summary of the process was described as the Sustainability Commission's role is to advise the City Council, and then the City Council advises staff about desired changes in procedures or policies.

The group discussed the rest of the goals sheet.

- Review of Sunflower Festival

The group reviewed the Sunflower Festival. Everyone agreed that the parade participation was very successful. Thanks were given to Alexis for pulling it together, and for the original idea. The recycling booth was staffed by Alexis Penny and Josh Thede from noon to 2:30 p.m. There was somewhat lower foot traffic and very windy at that part of the day. Josh Thede heard concerns from dangerous driving on Johnson Drive. The group would like to participate next year.

IV. New Business

- Holiday Light Recycling

Terri Baugh reviewed the information that she had previously shared at the retreat that Mack Hardware is willing to host a recycling box for holiday lights. Terri Baugh recommended that a cubic yard box also be hosted at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center. Midwest Recycling that sends them to a demanufacturer.

*** Zora Stewart-Jones left the meeting ***

Terri Baugh recommended that the group announced the recycling service would be at an expense to the Sustainability Commission for each time a full box was collected. Terri moved that up to \$600 be allocated for pick-ups of both boxes at the cost of \$50 per pick-up for the boxes being in place from mid-November to mid-January. Andy Hyland seconded the motion. Robin Dukelow asked which organization the group is proposing to use. Terri Baugh shared Midwest Recycling Center will be doing the work. And that Southeast Industries is no longer picking them up. The motion passed.

Cathy Boyer-Shesol suggested that the collection could be for lights that were used for holidays other than Christmas, and that perhaps the program could have a more inclusive name. The group agreed to advertise the program as the “Holiday Light Recycling Program.”

- City Council 2020 State Legislative Program

Josh Thede shared that this is the first time that the Sustainability Commission has participated in the development of the legislative platform. Councilmember Flora summarized the process. Mission’s Finance and Administration Committee will be discussing the legislative program on Wednesday, November 6 and will likely vote on a final program in December. Several documents have been circulated prior to the Sustainability Commission meeting, including a document created by Mission Planning Commissioner Charlie Troppito. Charlie Troppito administered a multiple choice quiz to the members of the Sustainability Commission covering the materials he had asked to have distributed ahead of the meeting related to the use of CO2 mineralized concrete at the local, state and federal levels.

Councilmember Kring asked Charlie Troppito whether he has spoken with anyone else in the region to see if they are doing the carbon sequestration in concrete. Charlie Troppito answered that they are not. The State of Hawaii and the City of Honolulu has done it in highway projects.

Manny Trillo raised the issue that the problem is much larger than just bringing the companies here. He brought up issues of recruiting talent to the region and being able to retain that workforce.

Andy Hyland asked Charlie Troppito why the technology has not spread. Charlie Troppito shared that it has spread to many locations around the world. Robin Dukelow shared that there is a remarkable number of companies are doing this. In St. Louis, Georgia, Indiana and others. It does seem like it growing. She shared that with concrete is not going to travel far due to cost constraints.

Josh Thede shared that anything that can capture and reduce emissions is good to consider. He is in support of the activities that sequester carbon dioxide and reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Councilmember Flora asked whether for the purposes of the platform that the item being broadened somewhat. She proposed the following language:

The City of Mission encourages the State of Kansas to investigate and adopt innovative green technologies to drawdown greenhouse gas emissions and/or sequester carbon dioxide including, for example, carbon dioxide mineralized concrete and photocatalytic concrete technology.

Andy Hyland asked what the broad priorities are on the part of City Council. There was discussion about the futility of sharing priorities that may not be likely to find traction, and

whether that may be counter productive. Emily Randel shared that in the past, the platform has been shared with the legislators that represent Mission. Councilmember Flora shared that it is a statement of principle. Councilmember Kring shared that Mission led the way against smoking and views that process as having been successful.

Cathy Boyer-Shesol moved to accept the amended statement of support and Manny Trillo seconded the motion.

Josh Thede reviewed the sustainability priorities that were included in Mission's program last year. Manny Trillo moved to include the items that were included in Mission's legislative platform from 2019. Cathy Boyer-Shesol seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Emily Randel will share the motion language with City Administrator Laura Smith for inclusion in the legislative program for 2020.

- City Planner Position - Sustainability Credentials

Emily Randel shared the status of the posting of the City Planner position. The job description is being finalized, and the job has not been posted yet, but staff would like to have it out in order to have someone start in the position as close to the start of the new year as possible. Discussion of which sustainability credentials to give preference to in the job posting followed. Emily Randel stated that because the position is an entry level position, some of the credentials may not be in place for someone in that stage of his/her career, but that training could occur after hire. Robin Dukelow agreed with that, and also suggested that an understanding of the U.S. Green Building Council's Sustainable Sites Initiative, known as "Sites" may be helpful. And she mentioned that SmartGrowth.org has a lot of resources. Robin shared that the schools now are relatively progressive in this regard and are likely including this type of coursework. Cathy Boyer-Shesol shared that Beth Dawson at the Mid-America Regional Council may have additional thoughts. Terri shared that once it is posted, the posting may be shared with Lisa Koch to follow up on the University of Kansas school project. Cathy Boyer-Shesol shared that age friendly planning experience could also be included as a preference in the job posting. Josh Thede asked if there is consensus among the group to include these ideas in the posting, and the group agreed.

- Update of City's Comprehensive Plan

Emily Randel shared an overview of the process. A panel reviewed responses to the request for proposals last week. It is expected that the Sustainability lens and the Communities for All Ages lens will play key roles in the update process, with members of the Sustainability Commission serving on the steering committee(s) and the chance for additional focus group discussions and other forms of input.

V. Reminders and announcements

- Josh Thede shared that tomorrow is election day
- November 15 is America Recycles Day

- The next Adopt a Street clean-up will be November 16 at 9 a.m. at Roeland Drive.
- December 6 is Holiday Lights and Festive Sights. The Sustainability Commission will have a table. Terri Baugh will coordinate volunteers.
- Councilmember Flora shared that there will be a Ward IV meeting November 12 at 7 p.m. at the Community Center. All are welcome.

Terri Baugh moved to spend up to \$25 in candy for Holiday Lights and Festive Sights. John Arnett seconded the motion. Robin Dukelow offered that she is willing to donate four bags of leftover Halloween candy. The motion passed.

VI. Review of action items

- Emily Randel and Josh Thede will coordinate to invite the Gateway Developers to update the Sustainability Scorecard
- Emily Randel and Terri Baugh will coordinate on working forward on the door hangers for the recycling information for use of the Waste Management Grant funds.
- Josh Thede, Andy Hyland, David Greenlee and likely Alexis Penny will collaborate on pulling together the information from the Sustainability retreat into a new goals document.
- Emily Randel will forward language for the legislative program to Laura Smith.
- Zora will check with the Key Club and Yearbook Committee about student support for hanging door hangers and publishing recycling information.
- Terri Baugh will ask Penn Almoney for permission to place a holiday light recycling box at the Community Center.
- Terri Baugh will coordinate volunteers for Holiday Lights and Festive Sights.

VII. Adjourn

Manny Trillo moved to adjourn the meeting. Andy Hyland seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Sustainability Commission will be on Monday, December 2 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at Mission City Hall.