

Sustainability Commission Minutes

Monday, November 5, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Mission City Hall

In attendance: John Arnett, Terri Baugh, David Greenlee, Andy Hyland, Hannah McFarland, Alexis Penny, Zora Stewart-Jones, Josh Thede, Manny Trillo

Staff present: Emily Randel

Guests: Lynn Bain, resident, John Blessing, Waste Management

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Andy Hyland welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Mission resident Lynn Bain.

I. Approval of the October 1, 2018 minutes

John Arnett moved to approve the minutes with the recommended addition of the location of the Sustainability Commission retreat on November 15. Josh Thede seconded the motion. The commission approved the minutes.

II. Waste Audit Debrief

John Blessing from Waste Management and Terri Baugh shared their experiences from the waste audit performed on Tuesday, October 30. The audit was performed at the Waste Management Material Recovery Facility (MRF). Volunteers and staff sorted 1,433 lbs. of material collected on Monday, October 29 from a route in Mission. The audit was performed with resources and support from the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment and Bridging the Gap. Volunteers and staff hand sorted items and weighed each category.

The contamination rate was 26%, slightly higher than the national average. The worst contamination was bagged recyclables, contaminated paper, and “tangles” including plastic films, hose, and hangers.

The “Ditch the Bag” campaign led by Johnson County recently was a targeted effort in educating residents not to bag their recycling items inside their roll carts. The bagged items are thrown away. It is likely that the bags often contain eligible recycling items, and just improving this one behavior could greatly reduce the local contamination rate. The group can work to continue the education campaign to reduce contamination. There is interest in the group in completing an additional audit after a campaign. John Blessing will look into helping to coordinate.

Waste Management is currently receiving more recycling material than it can process, and is stockpiling what it can to wait for recycling markets to strengthen.

** David Greenlee joined the meeting at this point in the discussion. **

III. Old Business

a. Update on Sustainability Scorecard

The group discussed the remaining items for the processing of the Scorecard. The Scorecard response letter and cover letter are close to being finalized. Group members will share the documents for the final review.

Emily Randel shared that the developers for the Tidal Wave project have submitted plans. Josh Thede shared that he had communicated with the owners of Sandhills Brewing Company about the Scorecard and that they will have lots of interesting sustainability elements to their space.

Emily still needs to share the scorecard with the developers of 5438 Johnson Drive (Pride Cleaners) who have proposed a new building at that location.

b. Sustainability group collaboration

Andy Hyland and Josh Thede attended the City of Lawrence Sustainability Advisory Board meeting on October 10. There is no update on a joint meeting of Sustainability groups in Johnson County.

IV. Standing items

A. Battery Recycling

Emily Randel shared that the group is still filling an average of about one box per month. John Arnett brought another full box from the Community Center to the meeting. Since February 2017, the program has diverted 1,362 pounds of batteries from the landfill.

B. Budget Review

Purchase	Cost	Month Reported
HyVee - Earth Hour Snacks	\$32.63	April
Facebook ad - Earth Hour	\$20.00	April
BikeWalkKC Parts Reimbursement 4/5/18	\$100.00	April
Bike Fix-It station and concrete pad	\$2,180.63	June
Name badge for Alexis Penny	\$10.00	June
Gloves for battery sorting	\$4.76	July
Litter grabbers for Adopt-a-Street (2)	\$43.72	August
Name badges for Hannah McFarland and Zora Stewart-Jones	\$20.00	September

Litter grabbers for Adopt-a-Street (2 add'l)	\$31.98	October
TOTAL SPENT: \$2,443.72 TOTAL REMAINING: \$2,556.28		

The group held discussion about budget items for the retreat.

C. Adopt-A-Street Program

The group reviewed the litter pick-up on October 20. The Kiwanis volunteers who participate in the State of Kansas Adopt-a-Highway program were picking up litter on the same day. Terri Baugh will talk again with Nilo Fanska about the overlap.

V. Reminders and Announcements

Josh Thede shared notice of an event called *Drawdown* on Sunday, December 2 at 3 p.m. at the Village Presbyterian Church. The event is the final event in a 5-part workshop. Josh Thede has participated in the workshop.

Andy Hyland reminded everyone to vote. Election Day is Tuesday, November 6.

The Sustainability Commission will meet for a retreat on Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center in room E. Dinner will be provided.

VI. Adjourn

John Arnett moved to adjourn the meeting. Terri Baugh seconded the motion and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Sustainability Commission will be on Monday, December 3, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at Mission City Hall.