

Sustainability Commission Minutes

Monday, December 2, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Mission City Hall

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

Council Liaisons present: Councilmember Sollie Flora, Councilmember Debbie Kring

Guests: Councilmember Hillary Thomas, Tom Coffman, WCA, Lynn Bain, Mission resident

Staff present: Emily Randel

I. Welcome and introductions

Josh Thede welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. Presentation: Councilmember Hillary Thomas: Food and Sustainability

Councilmember Hillary Thomas, Ward III, shared a brief presentation about food policy and how it might fit into the City's sustainability policies and discussion. She provided a few definitions of sustainability in food and explained that meanings can vary widely. She explained examples of the "Sustainable Food Cities" Organization in Europe as one model. She suggested a field trip to Nile Valley Aquaponics on 29th to see an example of a complementary food cycle. Thomas explained why the demographics of Mission and Johnson County mean the community could benefit from sustainable food policies. Adopting best practices around this issue can improve health outcomes, lower food insecurity, reduce food waste, and conserve landfill space. Mission is already participating in several areas surrounding these issues including;

- Mission Market/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Communities for All Ages
- Composting classes
- Community Garden
- Harvester's Partnership

The Climate Action KC Playbook release is coming up on December 17. The book will likely bring up additional ideas around this topic. There are also a number of partners and organizations doing great work, and some that already have existing partnerships with Mission.

Councilmember Thomas concluded by thanking the Sustainability Commission members for their work. Andy Hyland shared thanks from the group for the presentation, and shared that he felt it was helpful in the context of planning for the group.

III. Presentation: Tom Coffman, WCA

The City's solid waste collection contract with Waste Management expires on December 31, 2019, and a new contract with WCA will begin on January 1st. Tom Coffman with WCA presented a few details related to the transition.

- WCA has mailed a postcard to homes announcing the transition. They will send a second letter to confirm the specific collection day for all households. They will send an additional mailing to explain bulk item pick-up collection dates.
- Electronic waste cannot go in Missouri landfills, so that is not allowed in bulk pick-up as it was with Waste Management that disposed of trash in Kansas.
- WCA has a local presence, with staff members in Harrisonville, MO who can respond to customer questions with knowledge specific to Mission's contract.
- Some new fleet trucks will be purchased that will be serving Mission routes. These new trucks will not be compressed natural gas (CNG). The Kansas City market is next in line for CNG infrastructure.
- WCA's Material Recovery Facility is in Harrisonville.
- WCA will be adding optical sorting technology to complete a higher level of paper sorting. The company is considering robotic sorting as well. Domestic paper mills are also tightening standards following the well-publicized tightening in Asia.
- Councilmember Flora asked if it is possible to see where the materials are sold. Tom Coffman said that they could provide letters from some of the companies in partnership.

Andy Hyland mentioned that the Sustainability Commission has done work trying to improve the quality of the recycling stream on the front end. The group discussed improvements in sorting technology and public education.

Terri Baugh wanted to confirm that the recycling stream information is accurate, so that we can share it on the door hangers. It is necessary to message that the public should move away from wishful recycling. "When in doubt, throw it out." It works best to keep messaging as consistent as possible, while still managing the changes in the market.

John Arnett asked about the trash going to the landfill in Sedalia. Tom Coffman discussed the tradeoffs of driving it that distance but at 171 acres, there is 8-10 years available at current volumes, with an option on purchasing an adjacent piece of ground. They have a new agreement that will install a processing plant to take the landfill gas to pipes to be processed and pumped into the natural gas pipeline to heat approximately 7,000 homes.

IV. Approval of the November 4, 2019 meeting minutes

Andy Hyland moved to approve the November 4, 2019 meeting minutes. Terri Baugh seconded the motion. The motion passed.

V. Old Business

○ Holiday Lights Recycling Update

Terri Baugh shared that the box at Mack True Value has many strands of lights already collected. The unveiling of the collection box at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center will be Wednesday evening, December 4 at 6:30 p.m. Terri Baugh has contacted the news outlets. Southeast Industries no longer has the collection boxes, but are accepting the lights at their facility in Raytown.

- Adopt-A-Street Debrief

Terri Baugh, Debbie Kring, John Arnett and David Greenlee met on November 16 to collect and gather trash and recycling.

- Battery recycling report from John Arnett and Emily Randel

John Arnett shared that the pace of recycling seems to have increased. Emily Randel recommended that the group purchase four more recycling buckets so that the transfers can happen easily. The two gallon size seems to be the best option for safety when lifting them.

Andy Hyland moved that the group purchase four more 2-gallon buckets. Terri Baugh seconded the motion. The motion passed. John Arnett and Emily Randel will account for an average weight for each bucket to account for the program totals.

- Update on Retreat Goal Setting

Alexis Penny has led the ad hoc committee along with Josh Thede, David Greenlee, Andy Hyland. The group reviewed each brainstorm from the retreat. The group has developed six categories for the goals, and will be putting each into a 1, 3 and 5 year plan. The group is currently putting the time constraints around the goals and will soon seek feedback. This will be an iterative process, and will need support from the group. The group has been giving each item a score on two conditions of impact and effort. The goal will be to have a front and back summary sheet of the priorities and 2020 goals.

- Sustainability Manager for the National League of Cities. Clint Robertson, Vice President - whole package, shared articles. Stay tuned, circulating the information. Everything from the 2018 legislative program was put in again, as well as the green technology has been added. Helpful to have a Sustainability Commission decide on legislative program in October 2020 to have a council vote in November.

VI. New Business

- Budget items

- Water Bottle Filler in Community Center

Emily Randel shared the most recent bid from KB Complete to install a water bottle filling fountain near the south bathrooms at the Community Center. Of the six plumbing companies contacted, KB Complete was the only company to respond, and their bid was \$7,929.. Councilmember Flora suggested that a \$8,000 water fountain would likely not be well received on the part of the City Council. The group discussed options that included discussion of carrying forward the \$1,900 set aside from 2018 for this purpose. The group discussed not forcing the issue and moving on to other projects in 2020. Terri Baugh asked if the group could pursue a water bottle in a different location, where there was already an inset, to simply the project and reduce the cost.

Emily Randel will respond to Penn Almoney email about the fountain. Terri Baugh will reach out to Penn Almoney separate from the group to discuss an alternative location.

- ARC

Josh Thede provided an update that ARC is now free for all buildings. Energy, waste, water, human experience, a score for each of these measurements, and a composite rating. If a building scores are high enough, then the building can be recommended for LEED certification. Josh Thede will be doing data entry with Olathe Schools.

- Trail Pedestrian Counter

In the past, the group discussed purchasing a trail traffic counter to measure pedestrian counts on the Rock Creek Trail. It may be helpful to know a baseline count of usage before the new apartments are occupied, and before additional promotion of the trail is included with wayfinding and implementation of the Parks Master Plan.

- Compost

Implementing a community composting bin or facility has been mentioned in the past. The group agreed that it is not ready at this time to determine placement of a bin or the feasibility of a community composting program.

- Trees

Trees seems like a worthy investment, but the group agreed that they would want to partner with Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission to allow for coordinated purchase and subsequent maintenance.

- For 2020: Door Hanger Printing, Recycling containers for Community Center

The group discussed the pros and cons of focusing on projects in the new year, and not spending the entirety of the 2019 budget. Alexis Penny mentioned that she had heard from staff at the Community Center that they have a need for additional recycling containers which are relatively expensive. Emily Randel mentioned that before investing in just a few of those, that there may be need to map out traffic patterns and waste streams to place them in optimum locations throughout the building, and so that there is a consistent look throughout the facility.

Alexis Penny suggested that covering the cost of the recycling information and the Ditch the Bag insert for the WCA mailing is a firm, known cost that is ready to move forward now.

Alexis Penny moved to spend \$1,080 to cover the cost of the recycling information sheet and the Ditch the Bag insert for the WCA mailing. John Arnett seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Reminders and announcements

- Dec. 4: Holiday Light Collection Box Opening
- Dec. 5: LEED Today+Green Building Policy for Municipalities, 4-6 p.m. Matt Ross Community Center, Overland Park
- Dec. 6: Holiday Lights and Festive Sights, 5-8 p.m. Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center
- Dec. 11: America Walks Webinar: Highlights from the National Walking Summit, 1 p.m. (Register online)

- December 13: Communities for All Ages Professional Network Design for All Ages: Community Planning and Practice, 8-10:30 a.m. MARC
- December 17: Climate Action KC: Resiliency in Action 2-5 p.m. Kauffman Foundation

VIII. Review of action items

- Locate the outreach booth game. (All)
- Finalize the retreat list. (Alexis Penny and Josh Thede)
- Respond to Penn Almoney re: water filler station (Emily Randel)

IX. Adjourn

Alexis Penny moved to adjourn the meeting. Cathy Boyer-Shesol seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Sustainability Commission will be on Monday, January 6, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at Mission City Hall.