

MINUTES OF THE MISSION SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Monday, January 8, 2024 - 6:30 P.M.

-- VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM --

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

In attendance: John Arnett, Lynn Bain, Terri Baugh, Cathy Boyer-Shesol, Ellen Parker, Mike Patterson, Lauren Reiter-Schmid, Josh Thede

Council Liaison present: Councilmember Debbie Kring

Staff present: Emily Randel, Deputy City Administrator

Guests: Alexa Root

I. Welcome and introductions

Lauren Reiter-Schmid welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members shared their new year resolutions or goals for 2024.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Sustainability Moment

Cathy Boyer-Shesol shared that she recently came across an article with sustainability content. She shared that before joining the Commission, she would not have read the article. Since one of the goals of the Commission is to start a discussion and tell others about why this is an important issue, she thought this was particularly relevant.

IV. Approval of the December 4, 2023 meeting minutes

Cathy Boyer-Shesol moved to approve the meeting minutes. Terri Baugh seconded the motion. The Commission approved the motion.

V. Sustainability Commission Leadership for 2024

Ellen Parker, Lauren Reiter-Schmid and Emily Randel reviewed with the group that an official vote for Chair and Vice Chair typically occurs in February of each year. Cathy Boyer-Shesol suggested Ramsey Attaria for Vice Chair, assuming he is interested in serving. Emily Randel reviewed the historic duties of Chair and Vice Chair and expectations.

Emily Randel shared that new Council liaisons will be appointed at the January City Council meeting.

VI. Strategic Planning/Retreat Follow-Up

Ellen Parker and Lauren Reiter-Schmid shared notes from the retreat in early December and draft goals.

There was robust discussion that lasted more than 30 minutes about partnerships, the role of the Commission in coming months, the capacity of the members of the Commission, the measuring and tracking of progress toward climate action goals and more.

The group thanked Lauren and Ellen for their work and expressed an interest in keeping the goals concise and memorable and that the draft was an excellent reflection of the discussion at the retreat.

Lauren will share updated draft goals via email later in the week.

VII. Sub-Committee Updates

- Communities for All Ages

Cathy Boyer-Shesol believes that the Communities for All Ages video that MARC created which features Mission will be available by the February meeting. She will share it with the group.

- Recycling

Terri Baugh shared that there have been fewer holiday lights dropped for recycling than in past years. The program will continue at Mack True Value and at the Powell Community Center through January 15. She will share one more time through all available channels.

- Communications

Lauren Reiter-Schmid will ask the group if anyone is interested to serve on the communications sub-committee. Communications will be a particular emphasis in the coming year based on the goals articulated in the retreat.

- Scorecard

Josh Thede shared that a portion of the sub-committee met to review the Milhaus Development Scorecard to identify which elements will avoid the highest amount of carbon emissions. Josh shared the review with Laura Smith and Emily Randel, and the project is scheduled to be discussed at Finance and Administration Commission on Wednesday, January 10. Feedback on the process would be appreciated.

Emily Randel asked if the Scorecard could use revision for a targeted focus on climate action. The group felt like the Scorecard works well and that it is right that it include all the elements, but that calling out the items most likely to contribute carbon emissions was a valuable exercise.

VIII. Standing Updates

- Park, Recreation and Tree Commission update

No update.

- Council Liaison Updates

Councilmember Debbie Kring shared parting thoughts before she will be reassigned to support another Commission next month. She congratulated the group on their professionalism and expertise and said that if the group members need anything in the future, they should feel free to reach out.

- Staff Updates

Emily Randel shared an update on hiring and recruitment for vacant staff positions.

There is likely to be an appointment at the January City Council meeting for the vacant position on Sustainability Commission.

Terri Baugh shared recent contact with the leader of the Environmental Club at Shawnee Mission North High School. The group shared brief thoughts on ways to connect with student groups in place of or in addition to a youth membership on the Commission.

Cathy Boyer-Shesol, Ellen Parker, Lauren Reiter-Schmid will develop a draft budget for 2024.

IX. Reminders and Announcements

Ellen Parker presented Emily Randel with a framed copy of the resolution honoring her service that was read at the December meeting and shared that there is a gift at City Hall waiting for her of a signed photo from the group. Emily thanked everyone for their kind words and promised there would be times to connect in the future ahead of her last day with the City on January 31.

X. Review of Action Items

XI. Adjourn

Cathy Boyer-Shesol moved to adjourn the meeting. John Arnett seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Sustainability Commission will be in person at Mission City Hall on Monday, February 5, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.