

## **Sustainability Commission Minutes**

Monday, May 6, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Mission City Hall

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

Council Liaisons present: Councilmember Sollie Flora, Councilmember Debbie Kring

Staff present: Emily Randel

Guests present: Lynn Bain, Mission Resident, Charlie Troppito, Planning Commission, John Blessing, Waste Management

### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

Josh Thede welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **Concrete CO2 Mineralization Article**

Charlie Troppito had previously shared via email an article about the environmental benefits of concrete CO2 mineralization. Josh Thede had shared the article with the Sustainability Commission members. Hawaii HB 1282 recommends the use of this process for public improvement projects as long as costs remain reasonable and timelines are not too adversely affected. Charlie recommended that action similar to Hawaii's bill be taken at the local, regional, state or federal level.

Andy Hyland thanked Charlie Troppito for bringing this information to the Commission. He then asked Mr. Troppito what brought him to focus on this issue in particular. Mr. Troppito answered that concrete CO2 mineralization is an action that governments can take on to make a relatively large impact based on the amount of concrete used in public projects in roads and facilities.

Josh Thede summarized that the carbon emissions is a significant issue, and all solutions should be on the table.

John Blessing asked about increased cost for this process. Mr. Troppito responded that representatives from the companies Carbon Cure and Thompson Concrete have both stated that the process is cost effective. The process would also be eligible for carbon offsets.

---Charlie Troppito left the meeting---

#### **Comments from John Blessing, Waste Management**

John Blessing shared that a recycling audit was just completed in Overland Park, similar to the one completed in Mission last year. The audit revealed a contamination rate of 28%, compared to 24% in Mission.

John Blessing shared information on the Waste Management Green Grant process. Terri Baugh and the Recycling Sub-Committee will apply for funds for #ditchthebag stickers as part of the campaign.

Mr. Blessing also requested that the Sustainability Commission share when the group does outreach opportunities so that they may participate. Staff from Waste Management often seeks volunteer opportunities. Andy Hyland mentioned that it would be fantastic if Waste Management would have a presence at Mission's special events, especially in regards to answering questions. Materials or volunteers would both be extremely helpful.

Andy Hyland asked how Mr. Blessing thinks the #ditchthebag campaign is going. Mr. Blessing answered that it is still too early to know, that October 2019 might be time for another audit. Waste Management is currently tracking the number of plastic bags that are going through the MRF. Bridging the Gap and Johnson County seem interested in continuing their participation in future audits.

---John Blessing left the meeting---

## **II. Approval of the April 1, 2019 minutes**

John Arnett moved to approve the minutes. Terri Baugh seconded the motion.

There was a discussion about whether roll call vote should be identified in the occasion when there is a split vote. The April minutes will remain as written, but future split votes will be discussed as to how best to reflect the details in meeting minutes.

## **III. Old Business**

### **A. Committee Reports**

#### **1. Better Blocks**

The group, Josh Thede, Andy Hyland and Manny Trillo had a second meeting on April 29 and reviewed potential locations and dates for a BetterBlock demonstration.

Councilmember Kring asked who sponsors the Better Block program. Josh Thede answered that there is a national group and several handbooks. The effort is meant to be low budget. BetterBlockKC.org is a resource.

#### **2. Communities for All Ages (CFAA)**

Alexis Penny shared an overview of the sub-committee's effort to date. There was no committee meeting in April. Four members, Alexis Penny, Manny Trillo, John Arnett and Sean Partain are in the group.

Councilmember Kring asked if the current assessment judges against conditions a year ago or in what time frame. Emily Randel answered that the last time the City went through the Checklist in detail was 2015.

John Arnett pointed out that the maintenance component is new and the repeat assessment component is cutting edge.

### **3. Recycling**

The sub-committee is Terri, Josh, David, John, and Zora. The Bunny Eggstravaganza went extremely well. The group gave out all the prizes donated from local businesses. Mack Hardware is willing to recycle Christmas lights in 2019.

The group is interested in hosting a recycling fair.

Terri Baugh and David Greenlee visited ACH foam manufacturing facility. They learned that it is not styrofoam, it is Expanded Polystyrene (EPS).

Terri Baugh visited two different first grade classes Rushton Elementary on April 29 to speak about how to recycle.

### **4. Scorecard**

The Scorecard sub-committee has not met.

Councilmember Kring asked what the scoring system judges against. Josh Thede answered that the scoring is based on the gap between current building code and green building code. Councilmember Kring asked if it is for new construction only. Mr. Thede answered that anyone who would like to come discuss the Scorecard is welcome.

### **B. Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Committee Update**

John Arnett provided an update from the CIP Committee. The majority of the April meeting was spent reviewing the Rock Creek channel stormwater mitigation project. The CIP Committee recommended taking on a fix for the entire project.

Josh Thede asked what mitigation means, and how can the City add features upstream to prevent water rushing down the channel and causing additional erosion. John Arnett answered that concrete and modular rock are the methods recommended. Emily Randel shared that she had heard alternative methods have been recommended for upstream areas near Outlook and Woodson and Lamar. Councilmember Sollie Flora mentioned that the Council does not have the design yet.

---Manny Trillo joined the meeting---

Andy Hyland said it will be helpful going forward to have the Council liaison's opinions on how and when to be involved in design.

Councilmember Sollie Flora said she believed the Commissions should expect to be more involved in future budgets.

### **C. U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) IMPACT Conference**

Hannah McFarland shared a summary of the IMPACT Conference that she attended in early April. A lot of the conference focused on green school improvements. Ms. McFarland shared a link to the digital playground that features different projects that have been through the ARC platform. Measurements include data points on energy and water data, waste, a transportation annual survey, human experience and air quality survey once per year. It is recommended that the transportation and human experience surveys be conducted at the same time each year.

Ms. McFarland also heard a presentation on wellness in buildings. Scented soap is a key issue impacting human experience and wellness.

Compostable trash bags were highlighted, as well as Carpet America Recovery Effort CARE - Interface manufacturer that will come and collect old carpet from a building as long as it is a certain quantity.

Josh Thede also attended the conference, and he shared that the free beta program is now over, but the pricing is on the back of the brochure. Alexis Penny shared how much she appreciates the ARC program, and having control over our own baseline.

Councilmember Kring stated how effective it could be to have a program to bring back egg cartons to grocery stores, since they can be reused, and a lot of residents have chickens who could use the cartons.

### **D. First Suburbs Coalition April 19 Report - Affordable Housing**

John Arnett shared that the National League of Cities selected the First Suburbs Coalition for a grant to sponsor technical assistance for an affordable housing summit in July. Olathe received bronze recognition and Roeland Park received gold level recognition. Representatives from MARC shared a presentation on how to define affordable housing in the Kansas City metro area. The most growth is expected in older households, the population will become much more diverse. They addressed housing choice apartments versus single family home and ownership versus rental. John Arnett will share the report from MARC with the group.

### **E. Earth Day, April 22 Debrief**

Josh Thede shared that he and Terri Baugh, David Greenlee, and John Arnett met for breakfast at Urban Prairie Coffee Shop and received free coffee for bringing their own mug. Urban Prairie and Mission Board Games and Sandhills have also installed a recycling dumpster.

---Lynn Bain left the meeting ---

### **F. Water Fountains at the Community Center**

Terri Baugh shared that the water fountains at the Community Center that were originally described as bottle fillers are actually cuspidors. The priority would be to have the water bottle filler to save resources and eliminate waste.

#### **G. Energy Audit Research Updates**

Manny Trillo is working to connect with the contact from the Kansas Corporation Commission's Facility Conservation Improvement Program to speak at a future Sustainability Commission meeting. Mr. Trillo shared a summary of the program with the Council liaisons.

#### **IV. New Business**

##### **A. Power Forward Conference - June 18 - Wichita**

Josh Thede shared information about the Power Forward Conference. This is an all day event. Councilmember Flora shared that Metro KC Climate Action Committee is also encouraging attendance, so there may be carpooling opportunities. Alexis shared that she would be interested in going if she is available. There may be a chance that commission members could get in at no cost.

Andy Hyland moved to fund the \$50 registration and mileage reimbursement to Wichita round trip. Terri Baugh seconded the motion. The motion passed.

##### **B. Bike to Work Day - Friday, May 17**

Josh Thede shared a summary of plans from last year and the group agreed to target 2020. The City of Mission can publicize the day through social media. The group liked the idea of having shirts that read "I Bike Mission"

#### **V. Standing Items**

##### **A. Review and update of goals and tracking sheet**

The committee chairs have updated the Google doc.

##### **B. Battery recycle update**

Emily Randel provided an update that 1,944 pounds of batteries have been diverted from the landfill since the program began in 2016. There is one empty box remaining since the purchase in December.

Terri Baugh shared that she met with Brent Morton about hosting 55 gallon drums at Public Works. He was very supportive. Battery Solutions would deliver the sorting containers. There is a \$200 set-up fee, but the price per pound is much lower than the Big Green Box program, and even lower if the City can facilitate storing the batteries in five gallon drums for pick-up. Terri Baugh and the recycling sub-committee members are still gathering more information.

Alexis Penny asked about details of how long it would take to collect enough batteries for a single delivery. Manny Trillo suggested that the interface with the public should change as little as possible.

Terri Baugh moved to purchase five Big Green Boxes for \$290. Andy Hyland seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**C. Budget review**

Purchase	Cost	Month Reported
USGBC Conference Registration (McFarland)	\$125	February
Sustainability Commission Tablecloth	\$277.85	April
HyVee S'mores for Earth Hour	\$18.19	April
Facebook Ad for Earth Hour	\$24.39	April
HyVee - Bunny Eggstravaganza	\$9.99	May
Age Positive Conference Registrations (4)	\$160	May
Composter - City Hall and The Mission Project	\$173.99	May
TOTAL SPENT: \$629.41		
TOTAL REMAINING: \$4,370.59		

Josh Thede recommended that the members connect via email before the June Sustainability Commission meeting about budget priorities. He confirmed that an update to the 2020 greenhouse gas inventory would be a priority recommendation from the Sustainability Commission to the City Council.

**D. Adopt-A-Street Program**

The clean up along the new section of Shawnee Mission Parkway May 4 resulted in not quite even three full bags of litter. Terri Baugh shared that she will coordinate the next date for new volunteers in the summer.

**VI. Reminders and Announcements**

- May 9 - KU Presentation of Johnson Drive redesign.
- June 6 - Mission Market Opening Day
- July 6 - Summer Family Picnic
- October 12 - Sunflower Festival - new date

**VII. Review of Action Items**

The group reviewed action items.

**VIII. Adjourn**

Andy moved to adjourn the meeting. Hannah seconded the motion and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Sustainability Commission will be on Monday, June 3, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at Mission City Hall.