

Sustainability Commission Minutes

Monday, July 1, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Mission City Hall

In attendance: John Arnett, David Greenlee, Andy Hyland, Hannah McFarland, Sean Partain, Alexis Penny, Zora Stewart-Jones, Josh Thede, Manny Trillo
Council Liaisons present: Councilmember Debbie Kring
Staff present: Emily Randel

I. Welcome and introductions

Josh Thede welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. Approval of the June 3, 2019 meeting minutes

Andy Hyland moved to approve the meeting minutes with recommended corrections. John Arnett seconded the motion. The motion passed.

III. Old Business

- Power Forward Conference Recap.

Alexis Penny shared a review of the Power Forward: A New Vision for the Kansas Energy Future Conference she attended in Wichita on June 18. She shared a written report and slide presentations from the conference via email. She shared a few highlights:

- Energy efficiency is the fastest growing job sector. Kansas is falling behind in investing in energy efficiency.
- Tim Unruh with National Association of Energy Service Companies shared about the Facility Conservation Improvement Program (FCIP).
- Policies around residential. Some cities require that when you sell your home, must have an energy audit completed.
- KCP&L (Eevergy) Drew Robinson and other representatives were there and shared the company's expectation to significantly reduce energy emissions by 2020 40%. They mentioned the solar subscription program.

--- Manny Trillo joined the meeting ---

Overall, Ms. Penny felt the conference was extremely well done and valuable. It was attended by many elected officials from the state. Andy Hyland asked what the costs to the average homeowner would be for completing an energy audit. Mr. Hyland also asked what the City of Mission should be doing, and Ms. Penny recommended further partnership with KCP&L and the Facility Conservation Improvement Program (FCIP). Ms. Penny recommends that when Mission starts looking at the cost effectiveness testing as part of the FCIP, the Sustainability Commission be involved in reviewing which factors are included because there are so many models.

--- Sean Partain joined the meeting ---

Councilmember Kring asked if wind energy was covered. Ms. Penny answered that wind energy and solar were both discussed, in particular, that the cost for the materials has gone down drastically.

- Recycling Table at Mission Market Recap. and plans for July 25 and August 29
Andy Hyland staffed the Sustainability Commission recycling tent at the June 20 Mission Market. It was the first time that he had been alone in the booth. He prepared and actively engaged people passing. He created a game that seemed to work well. Josh Thede also staffed the booth for about 30 minutes. John Arnett asked about the most challenging question. Mr. Thede answered that he struggles “How dirty is too dirty?” The answer is that the item has to be clean and dry. “Is it okay to recycle prescription bottles?” as also a difficult question. It is difficult to clean the bottles to the extent that they are free from contamination.

Josh Thede asked if members are available to volunteer at the July 25. Alexis Penny offered to attend beginning at 6:30 p.m. Zora Stewart-Jones volunteered for an earlier shift. Andy Hyland offered to take the late shift. Hannah McFarland volunteered for the later shift.

- 2020 Budget Request Update
Josh Thede forwarded the Sustainability Commission budget request memo. to Mayor Appletoft, Laura Smith, and Brian Scott that included the recommendation for an update to the Greenhouse Gas Inventory in 2020. The 2020 Recommended Budget will be presented at the July 10 Finance and Administration Committee meeting. The Community Dialogue on the Budget, another chance for input from the public on the recommended budget, will be at the City Council meeting at 7 p.m. on July 17.

Mr. Thede referenced that there has been some discussion about whether a greenhouse gas inventory update is necessary if something is being done at the regional level. He feels that there is some question about whether the regional effort will move forward at a satisfying pace. Councilmember Kring suggested that Mission should be a leader in this area and not wait for others. Councilmember Kring mentioned that in a perfect world, the Sustainability Commission members would weigh in on the environmental aspects of each issue. Councilmember Kring would like the contractors that have used environmental business practices to have that considered when bidding contracts.

- Kansas Facility Conservation Improvement Program (FCIP) Update
Following the presentation to the Sustainability Commission in June, City staff has added the program to the July 10 Community Development Committee agenda as a discussion item. Manny Trillo is still waiting to receive updated program materials and an updated list of Energy Service Companies from Lynn Retz at the Kansas Corporation Commission. When he has those, he will forward to the group, and to City staff. The energy audit activities are a Council priority for 2019 and are currently scheduled for the fall.

IV. New Business

- Roeland Park Coordination

Andy Hyland reported on a meeting of the Sustainability Commission in Roeland Park. They had four members at their meeting, one of whom is leaving. They wanted to ask what Mission is doing with the Drawdown effort. The Roeland Park Commission is interested in holding a charette for community feedback in the future. They are interested in thinking beyond just the City of Roeland Park, and suggested some potential collaboration with Mission. Manny Trillo mentioned the Ice on Fire documentary showing on HBO that highlights several ways that Drawdown is being implemented.

Mr. Thede mentioned that he has been talking with Nancy Robinson who has just joined the Prairie Village Environmental Committee.

Alexis Penny asked what has happened lately with the regional collaboration among sustainability commissions in the area. Mr. Hyland summarized past activities and recommended that Mission lead the effort if the group is interested in something happening. Ms. Penny recommended that the group start with Roeland Park and Prairie Village to see what takes hold. The first initiatives could be pooling resources, hosting speakers, creating an inventory of policy ideas and best practices. Manny Trillo also spoke in favor of working with the smaller northeast Johnson County cities first. Mr. Hyland mentioned that he had offered to share information about the battery recycling program. Ms. Penny suggested that Mission pick a date and inviting the two groups to join for an open ended discussion. Mr. Hyland and Ms. Penny will work together on that.

- Sustainability Commission Retreat August 10 or September 21

The group discussed options for a Sustainability Commission retreat. Josh Thede requested that the group decide on date, location, and topics to cover. Andy Hyland asked if there is anything wrong with the location we have had in the past. Mr. Thede shared that he has heard feedback that Shadowcliff was an amazing experience, and that there is some value in getting away to a unique location, stopping short of more expensive out of state travel. Mr. Thede shared that he would like to share knowledge among the members of the group. He would like to continue the discussion on goals. Alexis Penny emphasized strategic planning. Mr. Hyland mentioned that the location does not make a difference to him. Alexis Penny shared a list of possible locations including several LEED options. The group liked the group meeting space at the Prairie Fire Museum the best.

The group decided that there may be better availability for a weeknight evening meeting compared to a Saturday. Mr. Thede will circulate a new range of dates. The expertise sharing will happen at regular Sustainability Commission meeting. Andy Hyland volunteered to do the first presentation at the August meeting.

V. Reminders and announcements

- Mission Family Picnic - July 6, 6:00 p.m., Broadmoor Park

John Arnett will coordinate the staffing of the recycling table at the picnic. Alexis Penny will volunteer to help monitor the trash and recycling cans. Alexis Penny and Councilmember Kring will be contributing candy that includes boxed candy so that the box may be recycled.

- First Suburbs Coalition Meeting - July 19

John Arnett shared that the First Suburbs Coalition meeting in July will be the Regional Housing Summit at the Gladstone Community Center from 8:30-3:00 p.m. This event is part of the National League of Cities Economic Development Pilot Program. Registration is now open and costs \$30. There will be good representation from Mission as the co-host of the event. Several councilmembers and staff will be attending. None of the members of the Sustainability Commission volunteered to attend.

VI. Review of action items

VII. Adjourn

Andy Hyland moved to adjourn the meeting. Alexis Penny seconded the motion and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Sustainability Commission will be on Monday, August 5, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at Mission City Hall.