

MINUTES OF THE MISSION SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
May 23, 2013

The Mission Sustainability Commission met at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center, 6200 Martway, Thursday, May 23, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. The following commissioners were present: Rafael Duran, Doug Blessing, Leslie Herring, Steve Helvey, Largo Callenbach, and Nicole Moran. The following commissioners were absent: Kate Fields and Doug Gregg. Rosalind Johnson, Danielle Murray and Emily Randel were the staff members present.

Approval of Minutes of April 25, 2013 Meeting

Mr Blessing moved and Mr Duran seconded a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the April 25, 2013 meeting. The motion passed with no opposition.

Introduction of new staff: Emily Randel, Neighborhood Services Coordinator

The Commission members and Ms Randel introduced themselves to each other.

Update on Neighborhood Services Speaker Series

Ms Johnson shared a preliminary schedule for the 2013 speaker series. The Commission had previously indicated that once a quarter, they would like to try to help plan one of the events. The current topic proposed is something around energy efficiency upgrades for single family homes. Ms Johnson asked the Commission what format they would prefer, and what day and time might work best.

The Commission concluded that a Saturday morning event in mid- to late-September would work well. Ms Herring, Ms Moran and Ms Callenbach agreed to work on creating a vendor list of those technicians and service providers who could speak to each aspect of energy efficiency. Mr Blessing suggested that the group look first to local Mission businesses. Ms Johnson said she hoped they could find vendors who would avoid a hard sell to residents but would instead work to find ways to help. The small group agreed to report their findings to the Commission in June.

Progress Update: Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Ms Murray shared an update on the inventory with the Commission. The City's intern, Scott Peterson, will begin to collect new data next week. There was no discussion on the item.

Presentation: Creating Sustainable Places Initiative and 350.org by Rafael Duran

Mr Duran reiterated his intention to provide the Sustainability Commission with a brief presentation of Mid-America Regional Council's Creating Sustainable Communities Initiative. He has obtained the powerpoint presentation, but is still hoping to receive the accompanying text for the presentation, and will attempt to share that with the Commission in the future.

Mr Duran also shared the website 350.org. The site represents a grassroots initiative started by environmentalist Bill McKibben. One of the elements of the initiative is to encourage local government to divest their stock holdings in carbon based companies. Mr Duran asked Ms Randel to research what investments the City of Mission has in such businesses. Mr Duran and Ms Callenbach encouraged the group to view the 45 minute video on the website, and suggested the group could then discuss whether to propose a resolution to the City Council on the issue.

Old Business

Development Review Process & Sustainability Criteria

The Commission brought up the sustainability criteria for the development process in Mission. Mr Blessing noted it was important to find a way to incorporate the criteria into the City's development process, or else previous efforts would be wasted. Ms Murray clarified that the Gateway project used the criteria due to the nature of that agreement with the City, but there was not an established way to utilize the criteria for other projects. There was discussion about creating a proposal to bring to the Planning Commission and City Council. The group decided it would use the majority of the June meeting as a work session on this topic. Ms Murray said she would bring the notes from her presentation to the Sustainability Commission's April meeting.

Bike Racks

Ms Murray confirmed that it was reflected in past minutes that the Commission had asked that 10 bike racks be purchased at the end of 2012. City staff failed to purchase them at that time. The Commission does still have two racks that have not been installed. The Commission discussed placing those near the Martway Street construction. Mr. Duran made a motion to purchase the 10 racks now. The motion was not seconded. There was some discussion about whether to purchase 10 racks now, or wait until the end of 2013, once other expenditures have been decided upon and made. Commission agreed to wait, and staff made a note to remember to make the purchase before the end of the year.

ScriptPro Renovation

Ms Murray shared that she had not had a chance to contact ScriptPro to invite the architect for the project to speak to the group about their decisions to recycle much of their construction waste. Staff will address this before the June meeting.

New Business

Ms Herring shared that the Rushton PTA only had \$100 of the required \$512 to build a Kindergarten Community Garden. Ms Herring asked the group if they would be willing to support the garden with the remaining \$412. The project includes four 4'x12' beds and one 4'x8' bed and soil. Mr. Duran motioned that the Commission would provide the Rushton PTA matching funds up to \$300 for garden expenses. Ms Callenback seconded the motion. The motion passed. The Commission would also like to encourage the Rushton PTA to approach local businesses for sponsorship.

Ms Moran shared information on the concept of "Parklets". These small, sometimes temporary spaces create a communal open space where residents and shoppers can linger. They can be as small as a parking space, and are often placed in pedestrian areas outside of retail stores. Ms Moran said she feels that Mission has several natural locations where parklets could be considered. Mr Blessing shared that during planning discussions for the Johnson Drive rehabilitation, this idea was discussed, but not supported. Ms Moran shared the website

<http://sfpavementtoparks.sfplanning.org/>, a site with detailed information on the concept and how to create parklets. The group agreed to discuss further at a future meeting.

Roundtable

Ms Randel announced the event celebrating the opening of the Mission Transit Center on Monday, June 3. Riders will be welcomed with coffee and doughnuts. The Sustainability Commissioners are welcome to attend. The Commission discussed ways to achieve greater visibility in the community. Mr Duran and Ms Callenbach said they would attend the event, and hang the Commission's banner at a table and hand out sustainability bags to riders.

Mr Helvey shared that he had not had time to work on a list of potential green businesses mentioned at the April meeting, but that there might be a chance to work with the group preparing a similar list for the speaker series event.

Ms Herring distributed Water One brochures and wildflower packets. The brochures instruct homeowners to water their grass on alternating days depending on their house number in order to reduce fluctuation in water demand and pressure. Ms Herring received the brochures through her involvement with the National League of Women Voters. She has more available, but needs to track which groups receive them. Staff took some for the Neighborhood Services new resident bags and also for distribution in the City Hall lobby.

Ms Callenbach mentioned that as part of this type of distribution of materials, the Commission should be using the Commission logo and talking points to better communicate the group's mission. Mr Duran invited Ms Callenbach to create talking points all the Commissioners could use when talking to new businesses or others around town. Ms Callenbach said she would consider doing so after the Commission's goals are more clearly established. The group discussed how the Mission Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Mission Merchants Association participates in this kind of outreach. Mr Helvey suggested that the group could even create a form email of some kind that would be ready to welcome new members to the community.

Ms Johnson reminded everyone about the upcoming speaker series events including the the "Trashology" session on August 22, the composting session on September 26, and the blood drive on October 1.

ADJOURN

There being no further items for discussion, the Commission adjourned at approximately 7:30 PM.

Submitted by Emily Randel, Neighborhood Services Coordinator