

MINUTES OF THE MISSION SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
March 28, 2013

The Mission Sustainability Commission met at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center, 6200 Martway, Thursday, March 28, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. The following commissioners were present: Rafael Duran, Doug Blessing, Leslie Herring, Steve Helvey and Nicole Moran. The following commissioners were absent: Largo Callenbach, Doug Gregg, and Kate Fields. Danielle Murray was the staff member attending the meeting.

At the request of Ms. Herring, who was running late, the chair re-ordered the agenda slightly to hold items requiring a vote until Ms Herring could attend.

Handout by Danielle Murray of Calendar and Contact List

Ms Murray provided the Sustainability Commission with an updated contact list and work plan calendar for 2013. Discussion ensued about the Commission's budget for 2013 and purchases of bike racks in late 2012. Ms Murray will provide a summary of the budget at the next meeting. She encouraged the Commission to consider what energy efficiency items they might like to purchase before the end of the year and suggested a portion of the next meeting include a brainstorming exercise to generate such a list for further investigation of feasibility.

Presentation by Danielle Murray of Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Ms Murray provided the Commission with a brief overview of the past Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory and Climate Action Planning process. She provided copies of the existing documents to new members present. She noted that staff believes the update to the GHG inventory can be completed in-house with the assistance of an intern. Ms Murray indicated that the first steps of the update will require a significant amount of time to gather data from various sources regarding the city's use of gas and electricity as well as other community indicators of GHG emissions. Staff will provide periodic updates on this on-going process at future meetings throughout the year.

Introduction of Creating Sustainable Places Initiative by Rafael Duran

Mr Duran shared his intention to provide the Sustainability Commission with a brief presentation from Mid-America Regional Council from their Creating Sustainable Communities Initiative. Mr Duran thought the information contained in the presentation regarding local market trends and demographics would be useful for the Commission to hear.

Ms Herring joined the meeting

Approval of Minutes of December 6, 2012 Meeting

Mr Blessing moved and Mr Helvey seconded a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the December 6, 2012 meeting. The motion passed with no opposition.

Election of Officers

Mr. Helvey moved to nominate Mr Duran for the position of chair. The motion failed for a lack of a second. Mr. Duran moved and Mr Helvey seconded a motion to nominate Ms Herring for the position of chair and Mr. Duran for the position of vice-chair. The motion passed with no

opposition.

New Business

Ms Herring shared updates of work she is involved in outside the Commission which may be of interest. This included several sustainability initiatives at Rushton Elementary including the Green Ribbon School program, Kansas Green School of the Year, food waste recycling, school gardening, and Fund Factory fundraising effort. Ms Murray asked Ms Herring to share information about the Fund Factory with her so that if possible it could be incorporated into the City's upcoming community recycling event. Mr Duran volunteered to contact staff at the Community Center regarding the possibility of accommodating a drop off location at the Community Center for the Fund Factory program as well.

Ms Herring continued to share additional information about the Roeland Park Sustainability Commission. She indicated that the Roeland Park Sustainability Commission was looking for partners in developing a speakers series this year. Ms Murray encouraged Ms Herring to forward any contacts with Roeland Park to City Staff for follow up as well. Ms Murray indicated that some of the City's Neighborhood Service events might lend themselves to such a collaboration.

Ms Herring continued by encouraging the Sustainability Commission to consider ways in which it could work to incorporate community gardening in City Parks. She suggested participation with the Parks Master Planning process currently underway. Mr Helvey suggested they also consider local business properties for community garden space. Mr Duran shared an example of large scale urban agriculture in Kansas City Missouri.

Ms Herring concluded her remarks by sharing information about the WIC community gardening program at the Johnson County Sunset building.

Mr Duran asked Staff about progress on the Community Garden cistern. He recalled that the Commission had committed to paying for additional equipment to make the cistern fully functional. Ms Murray responded by sharing the schedule for installation of the concrete pad to support the cistern by Public Works in the next few weeks. She did not have any information about additional equipment but committed to finding out for the next meeting. Mr Duran moved and Mr Blessing seconded a motion for the Sustainability Commission to pay for the additional equipment (spigot and concrete pad) if necessary. Mr Duran provided additional background information about the cistern project Ms Moran, the new member. The motion passed with no opposition. Ms Murray will confirm the Sustainability Commission's financial responsibility at the next regular meeting.

Ms Murray presented the Neighborhood Services calendar of event for 2013

Ms Murray presented the calendar of community events being planned by the Neighborhood Services Department for the remainder of the year. She asked for feedback from the Commission on the events planned and for any suggestions on ways to further incorporate

sustainability. The Commission generally agreed with the proposed calendar. Ms Herring asked for coordination with Roeland Park's Sustainability Commission wherever possible. Mr Blessing suggested adding a blood drive to the community health and wellness event and Mr Helvey concurred that an event once a month was appropriate.

Roundtable Items

Mr Blessing noted the lack of Mission City Councilmember or staff attendance at the NE Johnson County Sustainability Commission meetings hosted by Mr Ed Peterson at the Community Center. He felt strongly that attendance at these meetings, which will begin occurring every other month, was important. Mr Blessing indicated that he had been attending regularly. Mr Helvey asked for a description of the meetings/groups purpose. Mr Duran volunteered to reach out to a City Council member, and Ms Herring noted the committee seemed to working towards focusing and setting priorities in order to have a more powerful role.

Mr Blessing encouraged the Commissioners to join the emailing list for their local elected state representatives. Ms Herring volunteered to forward an email link to the rest of the Commission for enrollment.

Mr Blessing asked about the future traffic control planned for the Woodson St Martway Street intersection after the bridge replacement project. Ms Murray committed to finding out if a two-way or four-way stop sign is planned and reporting at the next meeting.

Mr Helvey shared his excitement for greater participation with surrounding communities like Roeland Park on events that educate and promote sustainability.

Ms Herring informed the Commission she will be bringing a guest with her to the next meeting.

Mr Duran asked staff if payment had been made to Mr Jeremy Knoll for his assistance with the development of the sustainable development criteria. Ms Murray committed to researching and reporting on this at the next meeting.

Mr Duran asked the Commission if they were interested in participating in the outdoor pool planning process. Ms Herring shared that she is serving on the pool stakeholders to represent the Sustainability Commission and that any input could be relayed through her.

Mr Helvey asked staff how the recently developed sustainability criteria would be used in the future to evaluate development in Mission. Ms Murray responded by reminding the Sustainability Commission that currently they have no official role in plan reviews nor code basis for doing so. She volunteered to provide the Commission with additional information about the development process in general at the next meeting so the Commission could further consider how it might like to integrate the criteria into it. Ms Murray will also provide the Commission with a copy of the final criteria document.

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Mr Duran called upon the Commission to encourage residents from Ward 1 or 3 to apply to the mayor for appointment to the Sustainability Commission to expand the membership to its full strength.

Mr Helvey suggested the Commission consider working on Green Business promotion and certification the upcoming year.

ADJOURN

There being no further items for discussion, the Commission adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Submitted by Danielle Murray, City Planner