

MINUTES OF THE MISSION SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Monday, September 14, 2020 - 6:30 P.M.

Held virtually, via ZOOM

In attendance: John Arnett, Terri Baugh, Cathy Boyer-Shesol, David Greenlee, Andy Hyland, Alexis Penny, Josh Thede

Council Liaison present: Councilmember Debbie Kring, Councilmember Sollie Flora

Staff present: Emily Randel, Assistant to the City Administrator

Guests present: Sumya Anani, Learning to Fly

I. Welcome and introductions

Alexis Penny welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. Public Comment

Sumya Anani, Learning to Fly business owner, shared her concern with current practices of weed removal by our Public Works. She reported that about a month ago she observed Public Works spraying a chemical along the curb line and also in the storm drain. Razor Pro is the current chemical sold by Grass Pad, which contains glyphosate. Her concerns relate to the health risks, and that glyphosate is a known carcinogen. Ms. Anani has an email prepared that she will share with the City that has some information about how to transition away from the use of this chemical. She references farmersfootprint.com that includes a series of resources about practices used in other communities.

Emily Randel shared a few details about her discussion with Brent Morton, the Public Works Superintendent. Mr. Morton stands behind the application practices used by the crews and is currently not aware of a viable alternative, but is open to recommendations. Randel shared the frequency of application and the areas where the chemical is applied. She added that a shift may be very possible, but would likely need to be accompanied by more public education about shifting priorities and possible shifting expectations about the appearance and presence of weeds, or the time that it takes to remove them.

Alexis Penny shared that the group will be taking action to review the information and share a recommendation to City Council.

*Action Item: Members should read through the information provided via email.

*Alexis Penny will check back with the group members in a week to gather feedback from the research and will prepare for a more informed discussion at the October Sustainability Commission meeting.

III. Approval of the August 3, 2020 meeting minutes

Cathy Boyer-Shesol moved to approve the August meeting minutes, Andy Hyland seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

IV. Old Business

- Lamar Bike Lanes Reveal Event Debrief - Alexis Penny, Josh Thede and Emily Randel shared their review. The event was a success and had about 20 people attend of all ages. They highlighted the width and comfort of the lanes, the quality of the bike safety instruction, the fun of the materials Alexis prepared for the event. The visibility of the event was significant too, in that it brought a large number of cyclists to the lanes.

The group formally acknowledged their support for the motion that was approved via email to support the BikeWalkKC staff for their time at an hourly rate of \$35/hour for two instructors for two hours each for a total of \$140 for the event.

- Naturally Affordable Housing Summit - Josh Thede shared a review of the 30 hour virtual content around the conference. The emphasis of the content was not the typical approach of highly subsidized housing, but housing that is economically naturally occurring. Mr. Thede has notes from the content that he will share via Google docs. He shared highlights around a few themes during the meeting.

There was brief discussion around the topics of minimum parking requirements and accessory dwelling units and cottage units.

*Action Item: Josh Thede will share out his notes. He will also highlight a few things that are most applicable to Mission and the Sustainability Commission.

- Facility Conservation Improvement Program (FCIP) Update - Emily Randel shared that the first walk-through with the pre-qualified companies will be hosted on Wednesday. Public Works and the Community Center facilities will be included.
- Battery Recycling Update - Alexis Penny shared thanks to John Arnett and Terri Baugh for sorting 176 pounds of batteries that have been collected since March.

V. New Business:

- Council Liaison Update - Councilmember Kring shared the Mission Magazine newsletter article with the Solid Waste Commission. The group admires what the Sustainability Commission is doing. Councilmember Kring also shared concerns about the bioswale at Broadmoor Park. The Sustainability Commission will refer the issue to someone who is skilled at managing those bioswales to find a solution that looks right and does not create a safety issue. Any solution will have to be found in conjunction with the Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission and Parks and Recreation staff. Councilmember Flora shared questions about Mission's solar code.

*Action Item: Terri Baugh will summarize the action of the Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission with the group and will reach out to Bridging the Gap and personal contacts to see about recommendations.

*Solar Requirements - Emily will share Mission's code language on solar.

- Mission Magazine Article - The plastics article will come out soon in the next issues of the magazine. Alexis Penny shared that maybe the next article could focus on another topic other than recycling. An idea was put forward about social isolation, a real issue during the COVID-19 pandemic, and a focus area of Communities for All Ages. The Age Positive Conference focused on these themes.

*Action Item: Cathy will share resources with Andy. Emily will share information on the due date for the next magazine.

- Recycling Sub-Committee Update - Terri Baugh has been holding on the recycling door hanger until approval from the Sustainability Commission. Cathy Boyer-Shesol confirmed with MARC that the City of Mission can add whatever we like. The addition of an identifier of the Mission Sustainability Commission would be in the form of a sticker. The group approved the purchase of a sticker, and will approve the design when Terri has it available.

*Action Item: Terri will share a design for the sticker and will order the stickers and coordinate volunteers for the distribution of the door hangers via email.

- Communities for All Ages Update - Cathy Boyer-Shesol shared the work of the checklist. The group also discussed supporting the development of a Universal Design Idea Book. Roeland Park has already pledged money. The group will wait to see what amount is needed, but is definitely in favor of supporting the effort. The Idea Book will be available in electronic form only.

VI. Reminders and announcements

VII. Review of action items

VIII. Adjourn

Andy Hyland moved to adjourn the meeting. David Greenlee seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Sustainability Commission will be on Monday, October 5, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.