

MINUTES OF THE MISSION SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Monday, January 4, 2021 - 6:30 P.M.

Held virtually, via ZOOM

In attendance: John Arnett, Terri Baugh, Cathy Boyer-Shesol, David Greenlee, Andy Hyland, Hunter Lindquist, Ellen Parker, Josh Thede

Council Liaison present: Councilmember Sollie Flora, Councilmember Debbie Kring

Staff present: Emily Randel, Assistant to the City Administrator

Guests: Brandon Hearn, Johnson County Department of Health and Environment

I. Welcome and introductions

David Greenlee welcomed everyone to the meeting. Hunter Lindquist and Ellen Parker joined for their first meeting as official members after being appointed in December.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Presentation - Brandon Hearn, Johnson County Environmental Health Specialist

Brandon Hearn shared a brief overview of current efforts in his department. He described the County's periodic waste sorts that guide future policy that are an in-depth audit of the waste stream. This activity led to the yard waste collection, and can offer big improvements in diversion when supported by policy change and education. Reducing contamination in the recycling stream is still a major focus. Plastic film and bagged recycling is still a major component of the observed contamination. The Ditch the Bag campaign that Mission has supported is still underway. Johnson County will perform recycling audits for neighborhood groups, HOAs, etc. They are time consuming, but allow for in-depth conversations about what is actually going into recycling bins, which can make a big impression, and can lead to behavior change. Brandon briefly touched on the Household Hazardous Waste program, the commercial assistance program, and solid waste planning. A new focus is looking at diverting some of the items collected through bulky item pick-up so they can be reused or recycled and not entirely sent to the landfill. The Commission members shared that they welcome the County's leadership in facilitating connections between local environmental councils.

*Cathy Boyer-Shesol left the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

IV. Approval of the December 7, 2020 meeting minutes

Andy Hyland moved to approve the December meeting minutes, John Arnett seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

V. Old Business

- Sustainability Scorecard

Josh Thede shared an overview of the scorecard for the benefit of the new members. The current scorecard committee includes Josh Thede, Andy Hyland and Terri Baugh. New members are welcome to join any of the sub-committees.

- Invitation to The Locale

Emily Randel will invite Steve Coon from EPC Development back, based on his schedule to confirm what has been built in order to receive the formal recognition. Following that review, if the project has met the anticipated standards, a plaque will be presented.

- Discussion on Recognition Plaque

Josh and Emily will connect to finalize the plaque design with font consistent with new brand guidelines.

VI. New Business

- Commission liaison rotation

Emily Randel suggested that instead of having just one member of the Sustainability Commission attend as liaison to the Parks, Recreation, Tree Commission (PRT) each month, that it might be desirable to have a different member of the Sustainability Commission attend each month. Members of PRT could do the same, to rotate attending the Sustainability Commission. That way, the membership of both groups would get to know the members of the other group and be more familiar with the activities of each. The Commission members agreed, and John Arnett will attend the January 25th meeting of the PRT and Emily Randel will coordinate the schedules of the following months. Each person attending the meeting will share an overview back to the group. Everyone agreed that the updates that Terri Baugh has been sharing have been very helpful.

- Johnson County Dept. of Health and Environment - Green Business Program

Emily Randel shared that Charles Marx from Johnson County reached out asking to have the link to the Green Business program shared on the City of Mission website. The program might be a nice feature for a future magazine newsletter article, maybe in conjunction with the recognition of The Locale for completing the Sustainability Scorecard recognition program.

VII. Standing Items

- Upcoming Outreach and Mission Magazine Article Topic

Andy Hyland and Emily Randel will coordinate to complete an article before the deadline for the next magazine on the Stormwater Management Best Practices program. Highlighting the County's Green Business Program can be the topic for the next issue, unless something more pressing arises.

- Recycling Sub-Committee

- Door Hangers. Terri Baugh shared thanks again to everyone who participated distributing the door hangers. Emily Randel will add the content to the website. The group will think about how it might be possible to host a virtual recycling information session, as a follow-up to the door hanger campaign.

- Light Recycling Update: The collection boxes seem to be getting good use. The boxes will be in place through January 15. Emily Randel did pay for the collection of the two boxes in 2020 to save 2021 budget dollars. The cost was \$75.00 per box, for \$150.
- Compost Collective: Terri Baugh provided information on curbside composting from Compost Collective, Food Cycle KC and KC Can Compost which focuses on commercial pick-up and a drop off service. She will seek feedback from Lenexa and Prairie Village about how their residents have felt about the service. Food Cycle KC is offering a discounted rate to Mission residents if the City of Mission agrees to promote the service on their website and social channels. Brandon Hearn mentioned that food waste is a growing percentage of waste that can be diverted, and will be an ongoing focus for County efforts as well.

- CFAA Sub-Committee Update

Cathy Boyer-Shesol had to leave the meeting early. Emily Randel shared a quick overview of the work, and that the subcommittee will meet on Monday, January 11 at 6 p.m. to complete a review of the Checklist status report with the opportunities for members of the Sustainability Commission to advance the efforts on each item. Emily Randel will share the updated goals sheet with Laura Smith and Department Directors.

- Parks, Recreation, and Tree Commission Update

Terri Baugh shared a review of the latest Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission meeting. The Parks technician should be coming on board any time. The National Honor Society will plant 12 trees in Mohawk Park and Broadmoor Park on April 24, 2021. Josh Thede asked if there was any opportunity for the Sustainability Commission to share in this project, or to expand it or support it in any way. Emily Randel and Sollie Flora will work with the Council liaisons of the PRT to brainstorm ways to promote the improvement of Mission's tree canopy. The new Park Technician should be starting employment with the City any day. There will be an effort to consider renaming Mohawk Park as part of the progress in the master plan improvements. Broadmoor Park will be the next park targeted for a master plan design. Councilmember Kring stated that she wants to review the early stage plans for Broadmoor Park in order to provide input.

- Sustainability Lens Sub-Committee Update

Josh Thede sent an update to the group to review. Emily Randel will share with staff. The work of the Sustainability Lens Sub-Committee is complete for now.

- Council Liaison Update

Councilmember Flora shared the official report that the City Council approved the Mission Bowl Development Agreement with the enhanced sustainability elements included.

- Comprehensive Plan Update

Josh Thede and Sollie Flora asked Emily Randel about a status report of the work, the steering committee members are disappointed in the delay of the work and the cancellation of meetings with little notice. There is additional information being gathered through the social media polling on Nextdoor in recent weeks which will be interesting to review along with the information collected on the project website.

VIII. Reminders and announcements

Josh Thede reminded everyone about the Sustainability events Google calendar. Emily Randel will reshare the calendar with the group. In particular, the National Council for Science & the Environment Drawdown conference is later this week.

IX. Review of action items

X. Adjourn

Terri Baugh moved to adjourn the meeting. Hunter Lindquist seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Sustainability Commission will be on Monday, February 1, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.