

MINUTES OF THE MSSION SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Monday, July 12, 2021 - 6:30 P.M.

Held in person at the Powell Community Center

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

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

Council Liaisons present: Councilmember Sollie Flora, Councilmember Debbie Kring

Staff present: Emily Randel, Assistant to the City Administrator

Guests: Jacque Gameson from the Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission; Hana Brookreson, Mission resident

I. Welcome and introductions and in-person guidelines

Cathy Boyer-Shesol welcomed everyone to the meeting. Emily Randel shared an update on masking.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Sustainability Moment

Josh Thede shared that he recently certified his yard as a Certified Wildlife Habitat through the National Wildlife Federation. The program includes the categories of food, water, cover, places to raise young and sustainable practices. There is an online application and certified lawns are recognized with a sign that educates others in the neighborhood about the benefits of having a wildlife habitat garden. www.nwf.org/garden

IV. Approval of the June 7, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Ellen Parker moved to approve the June meeting minutes. David Greenlee seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

V. Alternative Herbicide Update

Emily Randel provided an update to the issue of Public Works using glyphosate to control unwanted vegetation. A concerned citizen had approached the Sustainability Commission in the fall about the use of the chemical. It is commonly used, but Public Works staff researched alternatives. As a result, in 2021 they are using a different product with the brand name "Cheetah-Pro" which has approximately 50% less glyphosate. It costs more but comes recommended by a commercial contractor who has experience with the product in California. The City of Roeland Park tried a vinegar-based product but did not find it effective.

Emily Randel shared input from a former colleague who works with pesticides/herbicides and their impact on Oregon's watershed. She shared that glyphosate is still the least toxic herbicide when

used judiciously. Ties to cancer are related to cases of chronic exposure over a lifetime of farming with it for workers and because it is now in the food supply after being used on Round-Up resistant food crops in cereals, etc. Moving away from using chemicals is always a good idea, and there are non-treatment ideas that could be used if they were practical such as string trimmers, a concrete barrier under fences that can be mowed over, flame weeders, or working with the public to accept “herbicide free” areas in some places.

The group members thanked Public Works staff for looking into the issue and remarked that the follow-through based on one person’s inquiry was notable and should be commended. Emily Randel thanked the Sustainability Commission for being open to staff recommendations on how to improve while still being practical and effective.

VI. Strategic Plan

Josh Thede shared that the strategic plan subcommittee, Terri Baugh, Ellen Parker, Andy Hyland, Josh Thede met on July 7. Cathy Boyer-Shesol will participate in future planning in her current role as chair. The recommendation is to hold a retreat in the fall, likely from 8 a.m.-noon on Saturday, September 25. The goal will be to balance new ideas while still building on the outcomes of prior retreats and to incorporate elements of the Climate Action Plan. Please reach out to the group members if you have suggestions or ideas about how to move forward. Lenny Lippert suggested an outdoor location. Councilmember Flora recommended giving pre-work to the members to think through to maximize the retreat time.

VII. Standing Items

- Recycling Sub-Committee Update

Adopt a Street Scheduling – Terri Baugh will send an email asking for volunteers for a clean-up date on August 7, 14 or 21 starting at 8 a.m.

Compost Report – Terri Baugh sent an email out with additional information with Food Cycle KC (also offers Ripple Glass pick-up for an additional charge) and Compost Collective. John Arnett mentioned that both companies are listed on the Johnson County website which lends additional credibility. Terri Baugh moved that it comes forward as a discussion item to the Community Development Committee meeting. Hunter Lindquist seconded the motion. The motion passed. Josh Thede shared that promoting curbside composting services is a recommendation from the Climate Action Plan. The option came up to offer compost at the Mission Market with the alternative companies or also to consider a public composting location. The recycling subcommittee will discuss these options at a future meeting.

Environmental Fair – Terri Baugh sent invitations to the cities of Merriam, Fairway, Westwood, Roeland Park, Prairie Village. Lenny Lippert volunteered to facilitate a meeting with the other cities. Cathy Boyer-Shesol volunteered to help with the coordinating.

Smart Recycling Workshop – The Smart Recycling Workshop on July 20 at 7 p.m. at the Powell Community Center. Emily Randel will add a request to pre-register if people would like to sign-up to manage capacity. There will be some mention of reducing or repurposing products and

materials, but the focus will be on the recycling door hanger and educating what should go in or stay out of the curbside bin.

Mission Market booth – Terri Baugh thanked the volunteers who came out to the booth and shared that they received the most positive response they have received at any public event recently. The Commission will sign up for another date in August.

- Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission (PRT) Update

No Sustainability Commission member attended the June PRT meeting so Jacque Gameson provided a report. The rescheduled date of the Mission Summer Family Picnic will be announced soon. Progress is being made on the “70 trees for 70 years of Mission” anniversary campaign. There are 13 trees that went into parks recently, and the program will be promoted through the fall planting season. The park monument signage has been installed and will be fully complete by the end of August. The park conceptual planning meetings on Mohawk and Broadmoor Parks have been well attended. There have been themes to give preference for playgrounds, and there has been quite a bit of discussion around parking issues. Jacque Gameson shared Councilmember Kring’s sentiment that Broadmoor Park is a neighborhood park, not a Johnson County park, and should address the needs of the neighborhood and not the community at large. Discussion about the dog park will be ongoing as will discussion on the balance of adding new amenities compared to maintaining existing infrastructure. There is still no word on the parks grant. Cathy Boyer-Shesol commended the professionalism of the presentation at the Mohawk meeting which she attended.

John Arnett will attend the PRT meeting on July 19.

Jacque Gameson will deliver snacks to the Parks and Recreation staff on Parks Professionals Day this Friday, July 16.

- Council Liaison Update

Councilmember Flora reported that we are in the middle of the budget development cycle. The Community Dialogue on the Budget will be July 21 and the DirectionFinder Survey results will be reviewed at the August 4 Finance and Administration Committee meeting.

Councilmember Kring expressed regret about the postponement of the Mission Summer Family Picnic due to weather on July 10. Discussions are ongoing about beautification efforts in response to overflowing trash cans on the weekends on Johnson Drive. Councilmember Kring encouraged members to contact the City with any feedback on the parks planning work.

Andy Hyland asked about a high-level review of the proposed budget. Councilmember Flora shared that the current recommendation is to hold the mill levy and the stormwater utility fee flat. The group discussed the impacts of the removal of the Property Tax Lid and the passage of Senate Bill 13 which requires public notice if increase in assessed value will exceed the revenue neutral rate.

John Arnett asked about the sales tax ballot question. Councilmembers Flora and Kring shared an update on this and the asset management efforts on both streets and stormwater infrastructure.

- City Update

Emily Randel shared that the Racial Equity In Communities work with United Community Services has started. There is a stakeholder group from Mission that will participate with groups from other cities.

VIII. Reminders and Announcements

The Comprehensive Plan Update Committee met on June 24 and will meet again on July 29. There will be opportunities for public input in the coming weeks.

Councilmember Kring asked the question about how to help reusable food containers for our restaurants. There is concern about the longevity of the Johnson County landfill.

The Tidal Wave car wash is now open. They went through the Sustainability Scorecard process and Josh Thede will get the subcommittee together to review the sustainable elements that are in place and to coordinate recognition.

Andy Hyland reminded the group about the USBGC + Municipal Government Leadership Forum on July 27 at 2 p.m. The group has worked with the Sustainability Commission in the past and collaborated with the City on the Mission Bowl development. Councilmember Flora is planning to attend the forum.

IX. Review of Action Items

X. Adjourn

Josh Thede moved to adjourn the meeting. Mike Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Sustainability Commission will be in person on Monday, August 2, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.