

MINUTES OF THE MSSION SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Monday, November 1, 2021 - 6:30 P.M.

Held in person at the Powell Community Center

In attendance: David Greenlee, Andy Hyland, Hunter Lindquist, Ellen Parker, Mike Patterson, Josh Thede

Council Liaisons present: Councilmember Sollie Flora

Staff present: Emily Randel, Assistant City Administrator

I. Welcome and introductions

Emily Randel welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Sustainability Moment

Ellen Parker is part of the committee of parents providing input into the process of rebuilding Rushton Elementary School. She attended their first meeting and was impressed to find that the plans are already targeting building to LEED standards. Deputy City Administrator Brian Scott also attended. The group facilitating the meeting took input from those attending on general questions – what will success look like, what are you afraid of losing, etc.

IV. Approval of the October 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Andy Hyland moved to approve the September meeting minutes. Mike Patterson seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

V. Retreat Discussion and Strategic Plan Review and Further Discussion

The retreat planning sub-committee met last week and discussed the goals handout and the slide presentation. Ellen Parker led a discussion reviewing and confirming the mission, vision, guiding principles and goals.

The group approved the mission and vision statement as written.

In reviewing the guiding principles, the change was made from “As we do our work, we will be purposeful in including underrepresented voices.” to “As we do our work, we will be purposeful in seeking and elevating underrepresented voices.” This is to reflect a more intentional approach of not only including those who may come forward into existing conversations, but to be more proactive in going to find underrepresented new perspectives and embracing them fully.

Final versions:

Vision: A prosperous and sustainable community for all.

Mission: The Sustainability Commission advises the City Council and advocates for sustainable policies and practices impacting the natural environment, the economy and the community.

Guiding Principles: As we do our work, we will (1) be purposeful in seeking and elevating underrepresented voices and (2) continuously assess our capacity to achieve our goals.

Goals:

1. Partner with the City Council and Board and Commissions to center sustainability and achieve the goals of the Climate Action KC Regional Climate Action Plan.

Discussion: What is the Sustainability Commission's role in this process? Both the sub-committee and City staff have been thinking that a group including staff, councilmembers and representatives from each of the board and commissions would be the best approach. Members from the Sustainability Commission will report out on the activities of the larger group each month. The group acknowledged that the Sustainability Commission members would likely model enthusiasm, commitment, and willingness to work and meet outside of the regular meetings to move the work forward. There will be an outreach component of educating community members about the plan in order to build support for the activities within it.

2. Make Mission a resilient and welcoming community where people want to visit, work, live and age in place.

The group agreed and affirmed this goal.

3. Make Mission a responsible steward of our natural resources and be a good neighbor in our corner of the planet.

This responsibility for this goal goes beyond just the recycling sub-committee and the goal includes more than just recycling. A new name may need to be considered. Members will work to tie this goal more closely to the Climate Action Playbook.

4. Educate residents about sustainability goals and practices and empower individual action.

The first step of this committee will be to take stock of existing communication infrastructure and to see if any are lacking and then to build a full communication plan. Andy Hyland will lead the committee and Hunter Lindquist and Mike Patterson will participate on the committee.

5. Partner with local businesses to advance sustainability goals.

There was brief discussion about whether 'local' refers to just independent business or also some of the larger businesses located in Mission. The group determined all Mission businesses should be included. This goal incorporates the Sustainability Scorecard and Communities for All Ages and will be naturally applied in other Sustainability Commission activities.

The group approved the handout and finalized the goals and the handout. Andy Hyland stated that he felt that the vision document communicates the goals and activities of the Sustainability Commission more clearly than previous versions which were also high quality. He thanked the group for the effort that went into the retreat and the work before and after it and the seriousness

that everyone applied to the tasks. Mike Patterson added thanks for the preparation the subcommittee performed that allowed the retreat to go so smoothly and to be so effective.

Josh Thede officially dissolved the retreat planning sub-committee.

VI. Recommendation on Organization of Mission's Climate Action Plan Implementation

The group continued discussion that has occurred during Goal #1. Though nothing has been decided, there will be more considerations once the new Governing Body is installed, and once the Governing Body holds their retreat. Sustainability Commission members should feel free to encourage elected officials to take action in support of the Climate Action Plan. Josh Thede shared excerpts from the Climate Action Plan with the general topics included and voiced support for members of the Sustainability Commission educating themselves on the topics through peer presentations or guest speakers. Andy Hyland spoke in favor of putting in time to determine where to start the work. Emily Randel suggested that the group members could also be helpful in identifying opportunities with work going on in other places or ways for Mission to join other efforts to make use of work already underway. Councilmember Flora reminded the group that the Climate Action Playbook exists to guide action and that a Climate Action Toolkit for cities is forthcoming. Councilmember Hillary Parker-Thomas is Mission's ambassador and is pushing for that to be developed.

VII. Sub-Committee Items Needing Action

Recycling Sub-Committee

David Greenlee shared a report from the recycling sub-committee.

Andy Hyland moved to purchase five 3'x3' corrugated cardboard boxes for the holiday light recycling program from MRC for \$187.09. Hunter Lindquist seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Andy Hyland moved to spend up to \$375 for five pick-ups at \$75 each of full boxes of the holiday lights collected for recycling. David Greenlee seconded the motion. The motion passed.

David Greenlee also shared that the Environmental Fair is on hold until a location and date is determined. He and Terri Baugh will revise the recycling video based on GFL's changes in what is accepted in the curbside rollcarts.

Comprehensive Plan Update

Josh Thede shared that there will be an open house to review the draft of the updated Comprehensive Plan on November 16, 4-7 p.m. at Powell Community Center. It is an open house, come and go format. It has not been publicized widely, but all are encouraged to attend and provide input. There will also be a joint workshop between the City Council and Planning Commission on Wednesday, November 10. Brian Scott will come to a future Sustainability Commission to review the plan. Josh Thede provided an overview of the draft and encouraged participation at the open house.

VIII. Council Liaison Update

Councilmember Flora encouraged members to review the quarterly project status update in the packet for the Finance and Administration Committee meeting on November 3. The FCIP bonds were offered as green bonds and were received well and saved \$200,000 over the original predictions and the City maintained its A++ rating. The Greenhouse Gas Inventory is also included in the project update. Emily Randel provided an update and asked for feedback on the type of program to seek out for this work now that there are many tools available. Josh Thede recommended that a full ICLEI review be used to mirror the original work completed in the 2008 inventory. Councilmember Flora shared that the Mission Bowl demolition was done in order to sort the materials for recycling and salvaged several materials for reuse. Andy Hyland commented that he appreciated the City Administrator's comment in the Shawnee Mission Post article about the project regarding sustainability as a strong representation of the City's values.

IX. Parks and Recreation and Trees Commission

Josh Thede provided a report on the meeting in John Arnett's absence. There was discussion on park renovations. Mohawk Park has been identified as the first scheduled for renovation. Penn Almoney shared again the approval of the grant for \$394,000 for Mohawk Park improvements. Waterworks Park is scheduled to be the next park to receive improvements in coordination with the rebuilding of Rushton Elementary School. The group briefly discussed the past controversy around a dog park.

X. City Updates

Emily Randel shared brief updates including tree plantings in parks and City property, the FCIP project progress, an overview of holiday events.

XI. Reminders and Announcements

Vote! Josh Thede called attention to an event by Clean Air Now Kansas City on the sustainability calendar on November 17 at 2 p.m. for elected and appointed officials and at 6 p.m. for the general public. A representative from the Federal Office of Environmental Justice will speak.

XII. Review of Action Items

XIII. Adjourn

Daivd Greenlee moved to adjourn the meeting. Andy Hyland seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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