

MINUTES OF THE MSSION SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Monday, December 6, 2021 - 6:30 P.M.

Powell Community Center

In attendance: John Arnett, Terri Baugh, Cathy Boyer-Shesol, David Greenlee, Andy Hyland, Ellen Parker, Mike Patterson, Josh Thede, James Tormohlen

Council Liaisons present: Councilmember Sollie Flora, Councilmember Debbie Kring

Staff present: Emily Randel, Assistant City Administrator

Guests present: Cathy Thomas, Ward II; Brandon Hearn, Johnson County; Lea Loudon, Ward II

I. Welcome and introductions

Cathy Boyer-Shesol welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Sustainability Moment

Cathy Boyer-Shesol shared her impression that the Comprehensive Plan Open House was a very positive experience and she enjoyed seeing all the residents, even children, who were interested in themes of sustainability. Andy Hyland shared that as he engaged with the Confluence consultant team at the event they gave strong mention to sustainability. Cathy Boyer-Shesol added that age-friendly community items were also prominent in the event materials.

IV. Johnson County Recycle Right Campaign (Brandon Hearn, Environmental Health Specialist)

Brandon Hearn introduced himself and first shared the continued goal for 2022 to connect sustainability groups within Johnson County. He will work to facilitate that from his role. Andy Hyland shared the past efforts of collaboration between these groups.

The Recycle Right campaign started to reduce contamination in the recycling stream. The stricter requirements from China limiting contamination has shifted practitioners' focus from encouraging residents from recycling as much as possible to improving the quality of the recycling stream.

The Recycle Right campaign is an in-person review of recycling rollcars in a pre-determined area on a particular day. If a quick inspection of the bin reveals one or more elements of contamination, County staff will leave an "oops" tag. Information is most effective when it is targeted and directed to them specifically. County staff believe that most people are not putting contaminants in the bin maliciously, and that the information would be very helpful with people who want to do the right thing.

Brandon Hearn is interested in bringing the program to Mission as it is a community that has a City contract with a single hauler which is much more convenient for program administration. The program worked well in Westwood. He shared the details of how the resident notification will work so residents are aware of the campaign ahead of time.

Councilmember Kring asked about how to improve the rate of recycling in multi-family buildings. Brandon Hearn answered that very few apartment residents have access to recycling. The County code requires recycling services be offered to single family housing and duplexes. The issue of space and perceived cost are current barriers to extending the requirement to multi-family residences. The City of Leawood has an ordinance to require it in their multi-family buildings.

The Sustainability Commission would like to recommend that Mission help with the collecting, and to offer support for the program with volunteer hours. Terri Baugh supported the recommendation. Staff will work to bring the topic forward to the City Council.

Brandon Hearn left the meeting.

V. Approval of the November 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Andy Hyland moved to approve the meeting minutes. Ellen Parker seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

VI. Sub-Committee Reports

o Recycling Committee:

An increase of the cost of ordering light recycling boxes is required due to shipping the boxes to Public Works. (The cost had been approved for \$187.09 and should be increased to \$225.61.)

Andy Hyland moved to increase the expense to \$225.61. Josh Thede seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The lights bin at PCC is $\frac{3}{4}$ full, the bin at Mack Hardware is $\frac{1}{2}$ full.

The Sustainability Commission did not host a recycling table at Holiday Lights and Festive Sights due to the difficulty of hosting a table in the dark.

Terri Baugh will contact Brandon Hearn to see if he has any suggestions for a venue to host the environmental fair in a venue that could safely hold 250 people even with the COVID capacity restriction. Terri will check with PCC staff about using more of the facility than just the Conference Center that is not large enough to accommodate the event.

The battery program is up to date with batteries sorted and taped. The second drum at Public Works is nearly half full. The lithium battery bucket is nearly full.

o Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Report

Josh Thede shared a review of the open house on November 16, 4-7 p.m. at Powell Community Center. There were 53 members of the public who attended. The Sustainability Commission invited Brian Scott to present at the January meeting to review the plan with the group.

VII. Sustainability Commission Budget Review

Josh Thede moved to spend up to \$300 on a tablecloth and lights for a booth for hosting events in the dark. Terri Baugh seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Cathy Boyer-Shesol called for volunteers to work on a budget committee in January. Terri Baugh, Ellen Parker and Cathy Boyer-Shesol volunteered to work on this.

Emily Randel passed around an example of signage for the native plant garden at City Hall that could be a future expense for the Sustainability Commission.

The group agreed to review the expenses for the upcoming Climate Action KC Summit in April as a valid training expenses for the Commission.

VIII. Council Liaison Update

Councilmember Flora reminded the group of the swearing in ceremony on December 15 at 7 p.m. She will be sworn in as Mayor and Councilmembers Debbie Kring and Hillary Parker Thomas will be reappointed. Lea Loudon and Ben Chociey will be joining the Council in the Ward II and Ward IV seats respectively. There will be a reception at 5:45 p.m.

Councilmember Flora is now serving on the Mid-America Regional Council's Food Waste Advisory Committee.

Councilmember Debbie Kring praised the Holiday Lights and Festive Sights event on Friday and how it showcased the best of Mission. Terri Baugh shared a concern about a lack of sit-down restaurants.

IX. City Updates

X. Reminders and Announcements

Cathy Boyer-Shesol reminded the group that her position as chair will be ending. Josh Thede will move into the role of chair. Anyone interested in serving as Vice Chair should contact Cathy.

Josh Thede commented representing himself and not the Sustainability Commission at the last City Council meeting about on-street parking requirements. There are a few new areas where parking is prohibited. Josh Thede thanked Celia Duran for answering his questions so thoroughly. He commented that getting parking right is critically important.

Josh Thede attended the Clean Air Now Kansas City webinar. Councilmember Davis also attended. Josh will share the report with the group.

Josh Thede is on the Johnson County Transportation Council that advises the County Commission.

Andy Hyland thanked Councilmember Flora for her service as a Councilmember, a Council Liaison to the Sustainability Commission and as a member of the Sustainability Commission before serving in her role on Council.

XI. Review of Action Items

XII. Adjourn

Josh Thede moved to adjourn the meeting. John Arnett 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, January 3, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.