

## MINUTES OF THE MISSION SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Monday, March 7, 2022 - 6:30 P.M.

Powell Community Center

In attendance: John Arnett, Ramsey Attaria, Lynn Bain, Terri Baugh, Cathy Boyer-Shesol, Andy Hyland, Mike Patterson, Lauren Reiter-Schmid, Josh Thede, James Tormohlen

Council Liaisons present: Councilmembers Kring and Thomas

Staff present: Emily Randel, Assistant City Administrator

Guests present: Nicole Sullivan from the Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission; Brian Scott, Deputy City Administrator

### I. Welcome and introductions

Josh Thede welcomed everyone to the meeting. The members introduced themselves and read the Mission and Vision Statement aloud.

### II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

### III. Sustainability Moment

John Arnett shared that he noticed the new park bench that had been installed at Mohawk Park. He noticed that the bench was appropriate for Communities for All Ages as it has the arm rest that a person can use to help themselves stand. The bench is on a concrete pad for smooth transition from the trail and additional space for a wheelchair or scooter or stroller beside it. The benches are made of composite materials which is more sustainable than using virgin materials. There are also similar benches in Andersen Park and Broadmoor Park.

### IV. Comprehensive Plan Update

Brian Scott, Deputy City Administrator, shared the status of the update to Mission's Comprehensive Plan. He shared the background of why a city must develop a Comprehensive Plan and how it helps guide future growth and development. He read through the draft plan's categories and stressed that the principles of sustainability and Communities for All Ages are woven throughout the draft. The group reviewed the items included in the Strategic Opportunities Map as the last page of the handout.

Cathy Boyer-Shesol confirmed that an icon will be included in the final document next to elements that refer to Communities for All Ages.

John Arnett asked about a mixed-use development opportunity indicated in the plan draft at Nall Avenue and Shawnee Mission Parkway. Brian Scott confirmed that identifying it as such is just a conceptual idea. As trends develop and tastes and needs change over time, a parcel could be

reimagined for a different use. He reviewed the process that would be required to take such an idea to implementation.

Lauren Reiter-Schmid asked about next steps and what happens after the final document is complete. Once the final draft document is complete, it will be reviewed by the Planning Commission and the City Council. Then there will be public hearings, and final approval by the Planning Commission and the City Council. State statute requires staff to provide an annual update on the Comprehensive Plan.

Terri Baugh asked about a redesign of the intersection at 56<sup>th</sup> Street and Metcalf Avenue. Brian Scott answered that intersection is a perfect example of an opportunity coming up that may move an idea in the plan higher on the priority list. The Block Company has just approached the City with a development proposal at that location. The intersection will be considered in those development discussion.

Councilmember Kring shared the list of apartments in the City of Mission and the current rental rates for each. The quantity and rates will be factored into discussions of future development. Terri Baugh asked whether more multi-family construction may provide an opportunity for affordable housing. There was discussion about recent increases in rents and valuations of units in Mission as well as how the recent Mission Bowl development may impact affordable housing in future incentive packages for other projects.

Councilmember Parker Thomas shared that The Locale is the first multi-family property to be built since 1986. She reiterated that there is interest in making sure the older properties are maintained.

#### V. Approval of the February 7, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Andy Hyland moved to approve the meeting minutes. Terri Baugh seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

#### VI. Climate Action Updates

Emily Randel reported that four members have indicated interest in attending the Regional Climate Action Summit in April. Cathy Boyer-Shesol moved to approve the cost of registration for 4 members at a total of \$200. Terri Baugh seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Emily Randel shared the make-up of Mission's new Climate Action Task Force, appointed by the Mayor, which includes staff from each department, a member from the Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission and the Planning Commission, Councilmember Thomas and Chociej, Josh Thede and Andy Hyland representing the Sustainability Commission. She and Andy Hyland will serve as Co-Chairs of the Task Force.

#### VII. Sub-Committee

- Recycling Committee
  - Environmental Fair Update

Terri Baugh shared that the Environmental Fair on September 17 from 9 a.m.-Noon. Eco Elvis and for-profit and non-profit vendors will attend. The planning committee is seeking volunteers in all categories. Josh Thede will be interested to make sure that the fair will support the Commission's strategic plan. Cathy Boyer-Shesol mentioned that the guidelines for the vendors and participants will make sure their products are supporting the sustainable practices. Councilmember Kring shared that she feels that the community outreach and education is perfectly supported by the Fair.

- Battery Recycling Update

Emily Randel shared that the program has diverted 1.8 tons of batteries from the landfill since it began in 2016. John Arnett confirmed that the pail of lithium batteries were shipped for processing via UPS.

- Recycle Right Update

Emily Randel shared that the Monday, February 7 and Monday, February 14, Johnson County staff did an audit of items set out in recycling rollcars. The number of "oops" tags set out indicating contamination in the rollcars decreased dramatically from one week to the next. Emily will share the specific numbers via email.

Terri Baugh reminded the group that the Bunny Eggstravaganza will be Saturday, April 16 from 9:45 a.m.-Noon. She is seeking volunteers to staff the Recycling information table.

- Scorecard Committee

Josh Thede reviewed the latest meeting of the sub-committee. During the Sustainability Commission's annual update in February to the Community Development Committee, Councilmember Davis asked about the difference between the LEED system and the National Green Building Standard (NGBS) system. The group has since researched the differences and has the following description of the differences:

*"Both LEED and NGBS are rating systems that are third-party verified and participation in either system offers a significant improvement over current code regulations in terms of sustainability. They offer ratings in similar categories, but, importantly, the NGBS standards appear to only apply to residential development. It is the opinion of the Sustainability Commission that the LEED standards include more mandatory site testing and has more mandatory measures than NGBS standards. While the LEED standards are often more rigid, the NGBS standards offer additional flexibility and are often less expensive to achieve."*

The Sub-Committee also discussed The Preserve Development project. The development group submitted a Scorecard and will be invited to discuss the project with the Sustainability Commission. Currently, the project will receive a gold level recognition if the project develops as planned. Emily Randel will invite the developer to present to the Sustainability Commission via Zoom in April. The developer is based in Colorado.

- Communications Committee

Andy Hyland shared that he and Lauren Reiter-Schmid met to sketch a communication calendar. Future work will include Mission Magazine and will be included in the calendar so the topics can work in conjunction with other communication plans.

#### VIII. Council Liaison Update

Councilmember Kring sits on the Congress of Cities Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Advisory Committee as well as the Board. Governmental Advisory Committee for EPA and the Solid Waste Management Committee for Johnson County. She is happy to bring up any issues from the Sustainability Commission in any of these forums.

She shared about how they used to have the House of the Month. She suggested that the program could possibly be restructured to feature a resident who is using an element of sustainability in their home. There will be a Council Work Session March 30 to discuss street maintenance. There was discussion about how sidewalk maintenance and construction is included in the street program each year as well as the recent option to identify and grind down raised lips of sidewalks throughout the city.

#### IX. Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission Update

Nicole Sullivan reviewed recent activities from the PRT including an update to the Tree Plan and the Mohawk Park project starting later this year including bathrooms and a new pavilion. Sales tax will be coming up. Lynn Bain will attend the PRT meeting on March 21 at 6 p.m.

#### X. City Updates

Emily Randel announced that there will be a citywide clean-up event on Saturday, April 23 from 9-11 beginning at Beverly Park. Volunteers can sign up as a group or individually. Each participant should complete [the online form](#) to select a t-shirt size.

MARC shared a round of social media posts featuring the short video on the [Remodeling for Accessible Homes Guidebook](#). The Sustainability Commission supported the creation of the digital guidebook and it is a very helpful resource.

#### XI. Reminders and Announcements

Councilmember Kring shared the Rushton Elementary School building update.

Lauren Reiter-Schmid asked Terri Baugh if she could share the list of vendors signed-on so far to the environmental fair with the group in case the list triggered ideas on others to include.

#### XII. Review of Action Items

#### XIII. Adjourn

Cathy Boyer-Shesol moved to adjourn the meeting. Terri Baugh seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Sustainability Commission will be in person on Monday, April 4, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.