

## MINUTES OF THE MISSION SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Monday, January 9, 2023 - 6:30 P.M.

City Hall

In attendance: John Arnett, Terri Baugh, Andy Hyland, Ellen Parker, Lauren Reiter-Schmid, Josh Thede

Council Liaisons present: Councilmember Debbie Kring, Councilmember Hillary Parker Thomas

Staff present: Emily Randel, Assistant City Administrator

Guests present: Jacque Gameson, Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission; Terry Robbins, Resident of Shawnee; Megan Reavis and David Smith, Roeland Park Sustainability Commission

### I. Welcome and introductions

Josh Thede welcomed everyone to the meeting. The group members introduced themselves and Ellen Parker read the group's Mission and Vision Statement.

### II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

### III. Sustainability Moment(s)

Terri Baugh shared that she met the trash and recycling manager for the Kansas City Chiefs at the recent MARC Solid Waste Management District Awards Luncheon. As part of the contract for the World Cup, the stadium commits to being 90% landfill free for the event.

Emily Randel described her volunteer work over the weekend with the Platte Land Trust in Parkville spreading native seeds on a 20 acre conservation area the group is restoring.

### IV. Approval of the December 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes

John Arnett moved to approve the meeting minutes. Terri Baugh seconded the motion. The Commission approved the motion.

### V. Sustainability Commission Leadership Discussion

In the past, the City Council has made Sustainability Commission appointments in January. This year, the City Council approved the appointments in December.

Andy Hyland moved that the words from Section 1A "in January" be struck from the Sustainability Commission bylaws. John Arnett seconded the motion. Josh Thede clarified that the change was not related to anyone's absence since several members were absent tonight, but was relevant to the business at hand. The motion passed.

Lauren Reiter-Schmid nominated Ellen Parker for Chair of the Sustainability Commission. Andy Hyland moved to support the nomination. Terri Baugh seconded the motion. The motion carried.

\*\*\* Councilmember Hillary Parker Thomas joined the meeting. \*\*\*

Terri Baugh nominated Lauren Reiter-Schmid for Vice Chair of the Sustainability Commission. Andy Hyland moved to support the nomination. Josh Thede seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### VI. Climate Action Update

- Building Code Adoption - Councilmember Hillary Parker Thomas shared that the City of Kansas City, Missouri just passed the 2021 IECC. Staff wanted to pass the 2018 codes as a first step to keep in line with others in Johnson County. The City Council passed a resolution to explore adoption of the 2021 IECC as soon as it is feasible for staff with a thorough report including review of Kansas City's experience and in consideration of City of Overland Park which often sets the pace for other cities in Johnson County. Josh Thede specified that the 2021 IECC is just one code book of the nine included in all building codes. Josh also recalled when Jennifer Gumby from USGBC visited the Sustainability Commission several years ago, she recommended a three-prong approach for reduction of emissions related to building emissions. 1. Leading by example, 2. Providing incentives to encourage these practices, and 3. Passage of building codes as the minimum standards for buildings that are good buildings for all. The IECC has both residential and commercial components and only impacts new builds or renovations of over 50% for existing buildings.

Andy Hyland asked how to signal other cities where we're heading in order to work together. Councilmember Hillary Parker Thomas said that is happening, but it's happening differently than it has in the past. Normally it is happened as a six-year cycle, but elected officials in favor of more rapid are forcing it to happen more rapidly.

Councilmember Debbie Kring announced that Energy Efficiencies Conservation Block Grant have returned and she will want to see Mission evaluate this funding opportunity.

Councilmember Hillary Parker Thomas 63% of carbon emissions are coming from buildings which is the reason for the priority.

Lauren Reiter-Schmid asked whether adoption of a new code will necessitate a update of the Sustainability Scorecard. Josh Thede recommended that the Scorecard Subcommittee meet to evaluate the impacts.

- Resilient Success Stories Event - Emily Randel shared a recap of the MARC Resiliency Success Stories event in December where Mission was recognized for completion of the Facility Conservation Improvement Program. Josh Thede thanked former Sustainability Commission member Manny Trillo for initially bringing the idea to the group and hosting a guest speaker that sparked the idea.

#### VII. Sub-Committee Updates

- Communities for All Ages – No report

- Recycling – Terri Baugh reported on the Solid Waste Management District Awards Luncheon where the Steering Committee for the Go Green! 2022 Environmental Fair received the award for “Best Green Event.” The fair next year will either be September 9 or 23, 2023.

Both Holiday Light Recycling locations have had one pick-up for nearly 1,000 lbs. combined. Councilmember Kring suggested that these successes should be shared with schools because the students so often tell their parents.

- Communications – No report
- Sustainability Scorecard – The committee may have reason to meet to evaluate the need for updates caused by the building codes changes. A representative working on the Nelson Wastewater Treatment Plant may come next month but has not been confirmed.

#### VIII. Budget Development for 2023

The group reviewed the 2022 expenses compared to the budget. Terri Baugh will ask Cathy Boyer-Shesol if she will join her and Andy Hyland for a budget sub-committee meeting. The group agreed it was a successful effort in 2022.

Councilmember Hillary Parker Thomas suggested a periodic update from staff on how the undesignated sustainability funds are being spent.

#### IX. Standing Updates

- Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission Update

Jacque Gameson thanked the community for the passage of the sales tax. She provided an update on the Mohawk Park and shared that the RFQ process for design of the Water Works Park is underway in time for the new Rushton School opening. Roger Salinas is the City’s new Facilities and Maintenance Supervisor. The Commission will soon be announcing a new Championship Tree and will kick off the poster contest soon for display during the last week of January. Staff submitted the Tree City USA application with a Growth Award. Terri Baugh asked about the status of revenue recovery at the Powell Community Center.

Andy Hyland will attend the upcoming PRT meeting on January 16 to represent the Sustainability Commission.

- Council Liaison report

Councilmember Hillary Parker Thomas gave a variety of updates on recent Council action related to Sustainability including the Building Code issues discussed earlier, land use elements related to the Nelson Wastewater Treatment Plant project. She shared that the City renewed the mowing contracting and had requested alternative bids to complete a portion of the contract with electric

components but that did not move forward based on cost. The City was approved for a Planning for Sustainable Places grant to evaluate the area downtown at Outlook and the Rock Creek Trail. Councilmember Debbie Kring will miss the next meeting.

Josh Thede reminded the group, staff and Council Liaisons about the previous emphasis on reducing chemical usage and adjusting the toxicity in the landscape maintenance within the City by contractors and Public Works staff.

Lauren Reiter-Schmid suggested less grass and area overall that requires resource heavy maintenance. Emily Randel said there are active discussions happening about revising the landscaping plan on Johnson Drive to include native plants.

- Staff Updates

#### X. Reminders and Announcements

Josh Thede shared that there will be a stormwater conference in Lenexa in January. Emily will share resources from Lotus. The Climate Action KC Summit will be on April 15. John Arnett shared that residents diverted another 100 more pounds just in the last few weeks. The Holiday Light Recycling program will end January 16.

Terry Robbins asked about advocating at the County level on some of the issues discussed during the meeting. The group discussed the different ways to relate to the County and other jurisdictions on a variety of issues.

#### XI. Review of Action Items

#### XII. Adjourn

John Arnett moved to adjourn the meeting. Andy Hyland seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Sustainability Commission will be in person at Mission City Hall on Monday, February 6, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.