

## MINUTES OF THE MISSION SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Monday, December 4, 2023 - 6:30 P.M.

City Hall

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

Council Liaison present: Councilmember Hillary Parker-Thomas

Staff present: Emily Randel, Deputy City Administrator

Guests: Penelope Thomas

### I. Welcome and introductions

Ellen Parker welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members shared their favorite parts of the holiday season.

### II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

### III. Sustainability Moment

Cathy Boyer-Shesol shared that her daughter works for an environmental advocacy agency and whenever she comes home, it is a good reminder for their family about sustainability best practices.

### IV. Approval of the November 6, 2023 meeting minutes

Terri Baugh moved to approve the meeting minutes. Laura Reiter-Schmid seconded the motion. The Commission approved the motion.

### V. Retreat Follow-Up

Ellen Parker asked for feedback from the retreat. Everyone shared thanks to the organizing committee for their efforts in hosting a well-organized and productive retreat. Members shared appreciation for how the retreat re-emphasized how imperative it is to make progress in this work, and how they are hearing that in their daily lives. It is now acceptable to “say it out loud” and climate change is now front and center in the workplace, in the news and elsewhere.

Members shared that the retreat’s focus started as mostly project based, but then broadened to a more holistic City discussion, with an emphasis on partnerships and how everyone can join forces and make more progress to meet the very urgent net zero goals of 2025 and 2035.

Terri Baugh wondered if each of the members wanted to set a goal for each of themselves in the new year.

Andy Hyland shared reflections of how far the group has come over the years, and feels that everyone should feel both a sense of pride and urgency.

Follow-up: Lauren Reiter-Schmid will type up the list from the board as a first step, but the retreat planning group will plan to meet after the holidays.

#### VI. Business Support Discussion

As requested, the group discussed business support. Traditionally, the guiding theme of the “three P’s,” People, Planet and Prosperity, has brought support of a strong economy within the purview of the Sustainability Commission. The approach to that has varied over time and can be interpreted as direct and indirect. Emily shared thoughts around how the Commission may try to support businesses both in connecting them to education and resources around more sustainable practices, and in communicating and advocating about the businesses to the public. Emily Randel, Jenn Doppelt and Councilmember Thomas shared impressions from the November 2022 business forum and survey and Emily highlighted recent successes like the window decorating contest that focuses on the best of the downtown district. She warned against setting the expectation that there must be a formal business group that requires its own support and risks overburdening the business owners who choose to lead it. Instead, she recommends targeted partnerships and fresh ideas that celebrate what is unique and special about the district as it is. She feels that first, the City must be responsible for the physical infrastructure and safety of downtown, and has layered on programming such as the Mission Market and Holiday Lights and Festive Sites and the window decorating contest and then may layer on additional economic development initiatives as capacity allows.

The group remains open to finding ways to highlight sustainable business practices into the Environmental Fair if it makes sense - a thought exchange forum or a showcase of some kind.

Councilmember Thomas shared that she feels that part of business retention is the culture of the community, that businesses coming to the City now are attracted by the progressive policies they see in Mission.

Emily Randel shared that the City Council approved \$45,000 in the 2024 budget for Downtown district marketing and communications.

There were general brainstorms about additional support, either using the Scorecard differently, finding additional ways to celebrate what businesses are already doing, helping businesses with energy audits, and helping give business owners tools to communicate and education property owners about improvements and rebates that may be available. A speaker series and partnerships with Johnson County and other regional experts could be very helpful.

#### VII. Sub-Committee Updates

- Communities for All Ages

No updates.

- Recycling

Terri Baugh shared that she had a coffee with Karen Ramsey, formerly of Food Cycle KC, and learned about plans to bring community composters to the region. Businesses have a key and can unlock the bins to users, eliminating the need for a bucket exchange program. Terri is interested in bringing them to Mission.

Holiday light recycling is going on now at Mack True Value and at the Powell Community Center through January 15.

- Communications

Andy Hyland should think about who would like to do the communications work, because so much of the retreat focus was about telling the story of the City's efforts and how others can get involved.

During the reflections about the retreat, Jenn Doppelt shared that her salon just implemented a 4% sustainability fee and that customers have not objected and their clientele appreciates supporting those goals. Members expressed interest in highlighting this in a future Mission Magazine.

- Scorecard

Emily Randel requested that the Scorecard Sub-Committee review the Milhaus project scorecard. The project is still in early stages, but discussions around incentives are likely to come to the City Council after the first of the year. It would be helpful to have the review of the group on those items in the scorecard that are most closely tied to reduction of climate emissions, and those items that were they to be included would merit an increase of incentives. Josh Thede will review the materials and schedule a meeting with the group as soon as possible.

#### VIII. Standing Updates

- Park, Recreation and Tree Commission update

No update.

- Council Liaison Updates

Reappointments of the Sustainability Commission will come forward in December.

The Comprehensive Plan is moving forward for adoption.

New commission liaison appointments will be appointed in January.

- Staff Updates

Emily Randel shared an update on hiring and recruitment for vacant positions.

John Arnett moved to recognize Emily's commitment to the City and the Sustainability Commission with a tree and a plaque. Terri Baugh seconded. The motion passed.

Cathy Boyer-Shesol, Ellen Parker, Lauren Reiter-Schmid will develop a draft budget for 2024.

IX. Reminders and Announcements

The group made note of this being Andy Hyland's last meeting after nine years of service. The group members applauded with a standing ovation.

Andy Hyland made a motion to amend the agenda for the reading of a resolution. The motion passed.

Andy Hyland read aloud a resolution "Honoring the Services of Deputy City Administrator Emily Randel" on the occasion of her resigning from her position and leaving the City at the end of January. The Commission voted to approve the resolution.

X. Review of Action Items

XI. Adjourn

Josh Thede moved to adjourn the meeting. Lauren Reiter-Schmid seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Sustainability Commission will be in person at Mission City Hall on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.