

MINUTES OF THE MISSION SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Monday, November 6, 2023 - 6:30 P.M.

City Hall

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

Council Liaison present: Councilmember Debbie Kring

Staff present: Emily Randel, Deputy City Administrator

*** The Sustainability Commission members sorted batteries during the meeting. ***

I. Welcome and introductions

Ellen Parker welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Sustainability Moment

Terri Baugh shared that Circ, a company that recycles clothing by chemically separating the chemicals from synthetic materials, will be receiving the Earthshot Prize.

John Arnett shared a humorous video about battery operated car (SNL).

IV. Approval of the October 2, 2023 meeting minutes.

Andy Hyland moved to approve the meeting minutes. Cathy Boyer-Shesol seconded the motion. The Commission approved the motion.

V. Retreat Planning Update

The retreat date is firm for Saturday, December 2 from 8 a.m. to noon in the Police training room upstairs at City Hall. Snacks will be provided.

VI. Energy Audit Update

Emily Randel, Ellen Parker and Terri Baugh shared about the virtual meeting that was held on October 24 among the participants and the energy contractors. There was strong participation and the feedback from the audits was very positive. Emily is still figuring out how to distribute funds. Some participants are moving ahead with the information they have and others are less able to tackle these projects. All of the participants seemed willing to share out what they have learned to others.

VII. Sub-Committee Updates

- Communities for All Ages

The latest Mission Magazine is featuring an article about the File of Life information presented by the Consolidated Fire District No. 2 at the October Sustainability Commission meeting.

The Mid-America Regional Council is putting together a video to highlight the recognition program of Communities for All Ages and Mission will be one of the Gold Level cities featured. The video will likely be presented in January.

- Recycling

Terri Baugh shared that the City just shipped another drum to Cirba Solutions for recycling for \$848. The 2024 budgeted \$1,000 for battery recycling, including lithium recycling which is separate from the Cirba Solutions drum.

Terri reported that MRC increased their price for holiday light recycling from \$75 to \$125 per pick-up. In past years, the City has had a total of six pick-ups, three from each location. The group agreed that this was a popular service and should be continued. MRC has not increased their pricing for the past three years.

Andy Hyland moved to use \$400 from unused line items to cover the increased costs for holiday lights. Cathy Boyer-Shesol seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Terri Baugh and others shared their experience of picking up trash and recycling along Shawnee Mission Parkway for the Adopt-A-Street program. She reported that they collected more than during the other collection dates she remembers. Seven people attended including three employees from Elevate Organic Salon. The Commission is very grateful to Jenn Doppelt for including her team members in the event, and to David Greenlee, former Sustainability Commission member, for participating and for picking up the supplies at City Hall.

Terri Baugh asked the group about shifting all the Environmental Fair vendors to the gym instead of splitting them between the gym and the conference center. She shared that Cathy Boyer-Shesol has agreed to be the Co-Chair of the 2024 event.

- Communications

There will be one more Mission Magazine in 2023. Emily Randel will contact Andy Hyland with a deadline for a sustainability article and topic idea.

- Scorecard

Josh Thede did not have anything new to report from the sub-committee.

VIII. Standing Updates

- Park, Recreation and Tree Commission update

Cathy Boyer-Shesol attended the October PRT meeting. She shared about the planting of 13 new trees, with more information coming out in the spring 2024 Mission Magazine. The PRT discussed the Waterworks Park design and mentioned using the Communities for All Ages lens in design decisions.

Ellen Parker announced that the tree from Sustainability Commission will be planted on the Mission Market site. Emily Randel suggested that the group can walk down to the market following the retreat on December 2 to take a group photo.

Emily Randel also shared that she and Penn Almoney agreed to use only the Johnson County Contain the Rain tree list which include all native trees as recommended for the Celebration Tree Program. Previously, the City had also referred to the Kansas State Extension Office's list of recommended trees for the Kansas City Metropolitan Area, but not all those trees are native. The change is reflected on the "Tree Programs" page of the City's website.

- Council Liaison Updates

Councilmember Debbie Kring shared a business report of the new businesses opening soon in Mission. She also shared that she will be advising as a representative on a National League of Cities task force on engagement around the 2024 presidential election cycle and to serve as champions for the municipal perspective through the election.

New commission liaison appointments will be appointed in January.

- Staff Updates

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

The group discussed the two active Planning Sustainable Places studies that are underway and shared that there will be opportunities for additional feedback, including an online website for feedback that is available now.

IX. Reminders and Announcements

Andy Hyland shared that he will be moving out of Mission and will step down from the Commission in January. He reflected on how much serving on the Sustainability Commission has meant to him since he joined in 2015. The group thanked him for his service.

X. Review of Action Items

XI. Adjourn

John Arnett moved to adjourn the meeting. Terri Baugh seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Sustainability Commission will be in person at Mission City Hall on Monday, December November 4, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.