SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Sustainability Commission Agenda – April 13, 2026 - 6:30 p.m.
(Battery Sorting @ 5:30 p.m.)
Mission City Hall
6090 Woodson St, Mission, KS

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Public Comment

III. Sustainability Moment

IV. Approval of the March 2, 2026 Meeting Minutes

V. Bunny Eggstravaganza Booth Recap

VI. April Citywide Cleanup on April 25th Reminder
- Everyone must sign up individually and complete the waiver
- Coordinate who is picking up materials on Friday

VII. 2026-2027 Strategic Plan Retreat Debrief

VIII. Sub-Committee Updates
- Communities for All Ages
- Recycling
- Communications
- Scorecard

IX. Standing Updates
- Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission Update
  - Request from PRT
- Council Liaison Updates
- Staff Updates

X. Reminders and Announcements

XI. Review of Action Items

XII. Adjourn

MINUTES OF THE MISSION SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Monday, March 2, 2026 - 6:30 P.M.

Mission City Hall

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

In attendance: Alexa Root, James Robins, Terri Baugh, Lynn Bain, Cathy Boyer-Shesol, Ellen Parker, Mike Patterson, Jonathan Williamson
Council Liaisons present: Ben Chociej, Josepha Haden Chomphosy
Staff: Justin Carroll
Guests: Banks Floodman, Mark Hallier

- Welcome and introductions

- Public Comment
    - None.

- Sustainability Moment
    - Lynn shared a new technology she read about called bamboo plastic which was created in China. It works as an alternative to petroleum based plastic but is biodegradable within 50 days.

- Approval of the Feb 2, 2026 meeting minutes
    - Terri moved to approve the meeting minutes. Cathy seconded the motion. The Commission approved the motion.

- 2026-2027 Strategic Plan Retreat Final Touch Base
    - Alexa previewed the upcoming retreat. She noted the plan was to work off the goals from the last strategic plan which can be broken up into 3 categories:
        - Carbon energy usage – 2022 GHG emissions report and ICLEI
        - CFAA
        - Educate and influence

- Green Business Award Discussion
    - Alexa, Lynn, and Terri met to discuss this idea of a Green Business Award.
    - Some comments shared related to this include how to get the business community engaged and help them think more about sustainability.
    - Alexa noted in her professional role, they utilize three categories for businesses and sustainability: wellness, performance, and environment.
    - Continued discussion as to what this may look like and the topic will continue to be discussed more in the future including possible establishing a subcommittee.

- Bunny Eggstravaganza Booth
    - Terri asked if folks were interested in SC having a booth this year. It was noted the booth doesn't do very well at this event since the prizes are always candy and this event already has that.
    - It was decided the SC would try and give out local wildflower seeds this year. Alexa is going to develop a stamp, James will get the seeds, and Lynn would get the envelopes needed.
    - Mike and Terri agreed to work the booth at the event.

- Citywide Cleanup Update
    - Justin shared with the group that it appears there will be a new sponsor for cleanup on Shawnee Mission Pkwy so when the signup window opens SC will be assigned a new area for cleanup this year.

- Sub-Committee Updates
    - Communities for All Ages
        - N/A
    - Recycling
        - Terri will be doing a Recycling 101 class on 4/21 at the Powell Community Center. She did note there are some pretty substantive recycling changes coming soon from MARC.

    - Communications
        - N/A
    - Scorecard
        - Banks Floodman and Mark Hallier with Sunflower Development gave an overview of their proposed Encore multi-family project as part of the sustainability scorecard submission.
            - Terri asked about erosion control and trash recycling with this project.
                - Banks noted they feel much better about erosion control with the general contractor they will be using.
                - He also shared they will continue to try as much as they can to get buying for recycling including valet trash and recycling service which tends to encourage their residents to recycle.
            - Other items discussed included confirming the project will be solar ready and also includes the attainable housing aspect that was included in the Lanes project.
            - Cathy asked about universal design concepts and it was noted some of these are included and the project also meets required ADA units.
            - Alexa asked about the parking garage materials and Banks shared it will be a pre-cast parking lot which has less carbon emissions than traditional poured in place concrete.

- Standing Updates
    - Park, Recreation and Tree Commission Updates
    - Council Liaison Updates
        - Josepha noted the Council recognized the latest champion tree award winner at the February meeting.
    - Staff Updates
        - Justin asked if the group is amenable to changed the April meeting date since he will be traveling during the regularly scheduled meeting. The group agreed to shift and meet on April 13th.
        - Justin also shared that the battery recycling stockpiles are getting pretty big. There was lots of progress made sorting before the March meeting but we'll have to keep an eye on the stockpile and may need to schedule a separate sorting.

- Reminders and Announcements

- Review of Action Items

- Adjourn
    - Ellen moved to adjourn the meeting. James 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 at a to be determined location and time on Monday, April 13, 2026.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION – STRATEGIC RETREAT SUMMARY

Purpose

The Commission conducted a Strategic Retreat to evaluate current programs, gather internal feedback, and realign future efforts across the pillars of **Environment, Community, and Outreach**. Discussions focused on assessing workload sustainability, refining priorities, and strengthening alignment with the City's long-term sustainability goals.

Overall Strategic Themes from the Retreat

1. **Need for Strategic Realignment**
   The Commission wants to ensure its work is high-impact, feasible, and aligned with City priorities.
2. **Growing Focus on Education & Communications**
   Multiple notes emphasize explaining "why," not just "what," and improving public engagement.
3. **Concern Over Workload and Sustainability of Effort**
   Items like the Scorecard and Environmental Fair feel overwhelming or dependent on single individuals.
4. **Desire to Modernize & Expand Role**
   New ideas show a push toward policy-level engagement: Net Zero, code impacts, traffic studies, inclusive design.
5. **Clarifying What's Core vs. Supportive Work**
   The retreat repeatedly asks: Which efforts require direct Commission labor? Which should be supported but not led?

Key Discussion Areas

1. Program Alignment & Workload Sustainability

Commission members raised concerns about whether all ongoing efforts—such as battery recycling, the Environmental Fair, and certain event-support tasks—are appropriately aligned with core sustainability outcomes. Several projects were described as "baked in," prompting renewed interest in clarifying what the Commission should **lead directly** versus **support indirectly**.

2. Scorecard Dominance and Overextension

The Sustainability Scorecard is now central to development incentives and heavily prioritized by City Council. However, the tool has "morphed" beyond its initial scope and is managed by City Council. Members emphasized the need to realign it with

Commission goals and potentially integrate it with the emerging Green Business Award to reduce duplication.

3. Battery Recycling Program – High Output, Questioned Priority

Battery collection continues to demonstrate strong annual performance (886.6 lbs in 2023; 1404.5 lbs in 2024; 1371.4 lbs in 2025). Despite this success, the Commission questioned whether it merits continued high labor and budget investment. Ideas surfaced to shift sorting or drop-off work to local businesses or community groups, while improving public education on battery impacts.

4. Environmental Fair Continuity Risk

The Environmental Fair remains the Commission's largest event. However, the impending retirement of a key organizer creates a risk of capability loss. Members proposed establishing a task-force structure to ensure consistent leadership, resource distribution, and operational sustainability.

5. Communications and Outreach Gap

The Communications Subcommittee (initiated in 2025) remains underdeveloped. The retreat emphasized the need for improved public education—e.g., Recycling 101, composting basics, and sustainability schedules—and explored options like a Mission Magazine to strengthen outreach.

Feedback Summary

Concerns Raised

- Workload is disproportionally concentrated in a few areas and individuals.
- Scorecard requirements are increasingly complex and burdensome.
- Some legacy programs may deliver limited strategic value relative to effort.
- Public education is insufficient, fragmented, and inconsistently executed.
- Major events rely heavily on single points of failure.

Opportunities Identified

- Reprioritize around high-impact goals (e.g., GHG inventory outcomes, Net Zero alignment).
- Develop a formal task-force structure for major events.
- Leverage businesses and community partners for recycling programs.
- Strengthen communication capabilities and materials.
- Expand the Commission's policy advisory role (codes, traffic studies, climate alignment).

Forward Implications

Operational

- Some projects may need restructuring or divestment.

- Event sustainability requires distributed staffing models.
- Communications efforts require additional capacity or City support.

Strategic

- Scorecard refinement is critical to ensure alignment with sustainability objectives and workload feasibility.
- GHG inventory results and potential Net Zero targets will shape future policy direction.
- New policy-oriented initiatives require clear guidance and authority.

Recommended Actions for Future Meetings

1. Direct a formal prioritization review of all Commission programs.
2. Support a Scorecard redesign effort to streamline requirements.
3. Approve establishment of an Environmental Fair task-force structure.
4. Resource the Communications Subcommittee to strengthen public education.
5. Determine whether battery recycling remains a Commission-led effort or transitions to partner support.
6. Provide guidance on expanding the Commission's policy advisory role.

OVERVIEW OF BRAINSTORMING CONTENT

1. Core Sustainability Priorities

This retreat centered on reaffirming priorities, evaluating ongoing programs, and re-aligning the Commission's work with the City's sustainability goals. Three core pillars guided all discussions:

- Environment – Reducing energy use and GHG emissions
- Community – Embedding sustainability in citywide events
- Outreach – Educating residents to make sustainable choices

A major theme was ensuring projects remain purposeful, manageable, and aligned with these goals.

Are current projects truly aligned with Commission goals?

Several notes question whether all ongoing efforts—especially recycling and battery collection—represent the **highest-impact objectives**, given limited resources. Comments suggest some projects may be "baked in," meaning the Commission

inherited them but may choose to **reprioritize**.

Examples of notes:

- "Are batteries the most important priority?"
- "Scorecard has morphed—is it aligned with our goals?"
- "What items are we currently focusing on that truly meet our goals? Anything we could change focus on?"

The retreat emphasized the need to re-center on high-impact work such as GHG inventory outcomes.

2. Current Commission Items

The active project list includes:

- **Scorecard**

  The Scorecard was repeatedly mentioned as: A top priority for the City Council. Something that has "morphed" into a larger-than-expected process. A critical tool for development incentives (developers must prioritize sustainability to receive incentives)

  Notes reflect concern:

  - "It's become much bigger than expected—overwhelming."
  - "How can we improve alignment with our goals?"
  - "Can we overlap Scorecard with the Green Business Award and education?"

  This suggests future restructuring is needed to ensure the Commission can manage the Scorecard effectively.

- **Batteries program**

  Notes reveal **uncertainty** about whether the Commission should invest more labor or budget in this initiative:

  - "Is this our largest priority?"
  - "If we needed more money, there are other pathways than using our SC budget."
  - "Could we host a battery sorting party?"
  - "Could businesses sort and drop off batteries?"
  - "We need to educate people on *why* batteries should stay out of landfills."

  The program is successful, but its strategic value was questioned.

- **Recycling**
- **Environmental fair**

This is the Commission's largest event, featuring the Repair Café and significant community engagement.

A major concern surfaced:

- Terri, a key figure leading the Fair, is retiring.
- Without her, the event may lose continuity unless new structures are created.

Notes propose:

- Establishing a **task force or subcommittee** to distribute responsibilities
- Ensuring long-term sustainability of the event's operations and logistics

- **Tree drive**
- **Community for All Ages**

  This program received positive emphasis as a lens through which to evaluate all community-related work.

  Key note:

  - It's not another project—it's a framework for ensuring inclusive, accessible programming.
- **ICLEI**
- **Communications**

  The communications subcommittee began in 2025 but is still "a work in progress" for 2026.

  Notes ask:

  - Should the Commission launch a Mission Magazine flyer?
  - "Is it worth it? What topics would we cover?"

  The retreat recognized communications as a growth area that needs clearer direction.
- **Event booths**

  The Commission wants a stronger, more coherent precense at city events.

  Key notes:

  - Booth at every event
  - New recycling posters
  - A public-facing "recycling 101/composting/ battery recycling" education campaign
  - Provide schedules of opportunities for residents
  - A stronger focus on explaining **WHY** sustainability actions matter (not just what to do)

In general, a broader desire to shift toward community education, not just programs.

- **Citywide clean-up**
- **Green Business Award**

  The award is still "a work in progress," but with potential:

  - Could align with the Scorecard
  - Could tie into City incentives
  - Recognizes businesses already suited for sustainability recognition

  The Commission sees this as a promising outreach tool.

3. New Framework / Objectives

The presentation revisits each priority and lists associated objectives such as:

- Scorecard improvements
- Recycling initiatives
- Battery recycling
- Community for All Ages integration
- Clean-up day
- Environmental fair
- Event booths
- Communications improvements

It includes numerous internal discussion notes (e.g., "Battery sorting party?" "Is Scorecard still aligned with goals?").

4. Environment Section Insights

Highlights include:

- Scorecard projects (The Lanes apartment ceremony, Encore Scorecard)
- ICLEI GHG inventory
- Recycling programs (holiday lights, business recycling)
- Battery recycling metrics:
  - 2023: 886.6 lbs
  - 2024: 1404.5 lbs
  - 2025: 1371.4 lbs
- Need to revisit Scorecard alignment
- GHG inventory outcomes should become a priority

5. Community Section Insights

Projects:

- Community for All Ages (Gold Plaque)
- Tree drive (75 trees)
- Citywide clean-up (2025 on Shawnee Mission Pkwy; 2026 new path)
- Environmental Fair (largest event, includes Repair Café)

Notes:

- Retirement of the event lead raises continuity concerns
- Proposal for task-force model
- Community events vs. logistical subcommittee roles clarified

6. Outreach Section Insights

Projects include:

- Green Business Award (in development)
- Event booths
- Communications subcommittee (established in 2025, ongoing in 2026)

Notes:

- Award could become tied to incentives
- Emphasis on educating the public

7. New Ideas Page

Potential initiatives:

- GHG inventory
- Net Zero goals
- Climate Action KC alignment
- Inclusive design
- Traffic study
- Code impacts
- Newsletter
- Booth strategy development