

Sustainability Commission Meeting February 3, 2020

Meeting called to order at 5:35pm by Chairperson Nadine Gomez.

Roll Call: Wilder Hritz, Nadine Gomez, Andrew Scholl, and Miriam Jackson

ABSENT: Renee Ruchotzke

Staff: Harrison Wicks, Assistant to the City Manager

Ms. Gomez made a motion to excuse Mrs. Ruchotzke. Motion was seconded by Dr. Andrew Scholl and was approved with a 4-0 vote.

Review of Meeting Summary Reports of January 6, 2020:

Ms. Gomez made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Dr. Scholl and approved with a 4-0 vote.

Public Comment

None

OLD BUSINESS

Ad-hoc Committee Update- Mr. Wicks and Dr. Scholl provided an update. During the ad-hoc committee meeting, members discussed other climate action plans, specifically Cincinnati, OH and Lancaster, PA, and highlighted best practices that could be featured in our own plan. One task identified is for the committee members to research local historical climate data to better understand climate stressors. This data will include records such as temperature, rainfall, snowfall, tornados, wind storms, droughts, etc. Mr. Boateng shared an online tool that could be used to create weather trends and highlight future effects of climate change. Dr. Scholl also confirmed he can research data using the National Climatic Data Center (NOAA). The next meeting is scheduled for February 13th.

Farmers' Market Update- There was a consensus to provide a sign-up sheet for the Kent Environmental Council's networking event on February 17th. Ms. Gomez and Mr. Wicks agreed to attend the market during the morning session and Mrs. Ruchotzke and Mr. Hritz agreed to attend the market during the afternoon session. Mr. Wicks confirmed he can have flyers for upcoming events available.

Community Outreach Update-

- a. Kent Environmental Council (KEC)- No update, except for the networking event on February 17th. Mrs. Ruchotzke is planning to share information on the formation of a new Crooked River Environmental Network. KEC has agreed to promote the 2020 Environmental Film Series on their email newsletter.
- b. KSU Office of Sustainability- KSU will offer electronic recycling this year on

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February 19th and 26th, as well as March 4th, 11th, 18th. This information will be shared on the community sign and in the Tree City Bulletin.

- c. Family & Community Services (F&CS)- No update.

Tree City Bulletin- The commission members reviewed the article language and revisions provided by Bill Steiner. The revisions were accepted with no changes. Also, due to limited space in the TCB, the CANNOT list of the top 10 items to be left out of the recycling bin had to be removed. The article was approved for publication. The next potential article idea is to list places that recycle unusual items in the Kent area.

2020 Environmental Film Series- The commission members approved the flyer with minor revisions. It will be printed and shared throughout the Kent community.

NEW BUSINESS

Waste Stream Reform- No update. Mrs. Nelson confirmed Portage County was organizing a citizen task force and meetings are to be determined. Mr. Wicks provided an update on the recycling issues in Brimfield Township.

Bicycle Friendly Community- Mr. Hritz provided an update on the BFC designation to City Council during the meeting on February 5th. City Council approved City administration to apply for the BFC designation.

OTHER BUSINESS

Tree Planting Efforts- As a member of the Shade Tree Commission, Dr. Scholl provided an update on this item. Dr. Scholl described the Tree Give Away efforts at the Who's Your Momma Earth Day Festival in past years. There are future plans to give away trees periodically around the year by attending the Haymaker Farmers' Market. Other activities may include selling trees, giving trees to schools, and the City's Parks and Recreation Department. Dr. Scholl described the efforts of City Arborist Brad McKay as he plants trees on City property. Also, Mr. McKay plans to apply for the Tree City designation for the Arbor Day foundation that the City has held for the past 34 years.

NEXT MEETING

March 9, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Gomez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jackson and was approved with a 4-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm.