

Sustainability Commission Meeting June 7, 2021

Meeting called to order at 5:36 pm by Renee Ruchotzke

Roll Call: Andrew Scholl, Maryjane Stone, Renee Ruchotzke

ABSENT: Wilder Hritz

Staff: Patti Long, Assistant to the City Manager

Approval of the Meeting Summary Minutes:

Minutes are filed, not able to be approved due to no quorum.

Old Business

- a) Ad hoc Committee update – Andy Boateng is writing up the report for the GHG Emissions Inventory. Work is ongoing in Phase 2 (setting reduction targets) and in Phase 3 (developing a mitigation and adaptation plan). More updates will be available at the ad hoc meeting this Thursday and Rick Hawksley will be invited to that and future meetings.
- b) Community Outreach Update
 - i. Kent Environmental Council– Make Kent Wild Tour has seven sites. Hoping to add two KCSO locations to the list (Walls School and the Board offices). There will be maps available to attendees can see the locations of the sites.
 - ii. KSU Office of Sustainability – Shredding event occurred last week.
 - iii. Family and Community Services – Haven of Rest started planting the garden behind the location on Rt 59. F&CS is planting at the Thomas Anderson Memorial Garden in the south end near Dodge St. on Walnut St. Doria Daniels is organizing that.
- c) Tree City Bulletin - Deadline is July 9th. Rick Hawksley will write an ad hoc committee update and Patti Long mentioned that as long as the articles are in by the 16th that would be acceptable. Renee will write up a short article about recycling contamination. Renee Ruchotzke asked who in the City would be the best person to speak with about the changes in service this year. Patti Long suggested Melanie Baker would have the most information.

Pending Business

- a. Waste Stream Reform – Ms. Ruchotzke mentioned some ways cities are helping to reduce plastic, for example buying in bulk, carry out dishwashing services, etc. Ms. Stone asked about whether or not Kent ever looked at having a composting site. Ms. Ruchotzke mentioned Rubber City Refuse and perhaps we can add it as a new business item later to possibly connect with them.
- b. Bicycle Friendly community – Report card review from 2020. We met in some areas but not enough to be ranked at Bronze Status. Ms. Long offered to share documents from the results. Ms. Ruchotzke asked if everyone could get

the documents. Ms. Ruchotzke ask what the requirements are to start an ad hoc advisory committee to help promote the movement toward a ranked Bicycle Friendly City status. Mr. Scholl shared that since an ad hoc has no powers, they could just form an advisory group. Ms. Long added that KSU is exploring a bike-share program again that may be here by fall.

- c. Farmer's Market – Ms. Ruchotzke said she is not able to staff a table now to educate the residents on clean recycling and asked if anyone else is available to cover or plan that. After no one offered, it was decided that this plan be tabled until fall. The changes to City of Kent/Portage County Recycling will now be part of the Farmer's Market update as the education component is vital and that is a way we can eventually reach a lot of people. Maryjane Stone asked if for clarification on the County recycling program, thinking they stopped service altogether. Ms. Long explained that they were thinking about that option and decided to keep the homeowner service but not the multifamily complexes. There are still companies who will service apartment complexes and some of the managers in Kent have contracted with new service through companies such as Kimble. Property owners/managers were notified at the end of last year that after March the service would be discontinued, giving them time to contract with another company.
The Recycle Game for the Farmer's Market has been explored by Ms. Stone and she had a big idea that Wilder is not able to help her with at this time. Her idea is to get a person with a big personality to invite people to come over to the booth and take the challenge of recycling correctly into bins under a time limit with added pressure of loud noises and joking to make it fun. It could be like a carnival atmosphere. She is hesitant to hand out literature due to waste but perhaps signs could be available with information or websites on them. She is hoping to have it ready in the fall when the Sustainability table can be staffed. Ms. Long will check on whether or not the City has a canopy. Plan to set a date for this event so that it can be advertised in the TCB article.
- d. Community Gardens (CAC property in the South End) – To be a fiscal agent for the CDBG Federal funds, the 501c3 needs to prove they can provide capacity to support the project. There must be a budget, plan for all four phases of the garden, a schedule of responsibilities. The non-profit organization would need to apply and go through the interview process so past experience in managing similar projects is important. Ms. Ruchotzke asked if there needed to be a certificate of liability. Ms. Long will research that.
- e. Promoting Pollinator Pockets – Seeds were handed out by Kent P&R at River Day.
- f. Light Pollution – no discussion.

New Business

Ms. Stone made a motion to add municipal composting to the agenda to look into starting one in Kent to help the environment and create jobs. Mr. Scholl mention the facility in Athens where the university and city did a combine project. Perhaps getting the Rubber City refuse to do curbside pick-ups or a site. Ms. Ruchotzke will talk to Melanie Baker about whether or not it has been explored here. She also recommended there be two items, one for

municipal composting and one for community composting (eg. Rubber City Refuse). Ms. Ruchotzke made a motion to add the separate agenda items, Mr. Scholl seconded. All in favor, 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Stone made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Scholl seconded it. All in favor, 3-0. Meeting ended at 6:30.

Next Meeting

August 2, 2021