

Sustainability Commission Meeting November 4, 2019

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm by Chairperson Nadine Gomez.

Roll Call: Renee Ruchotzke, Nadine Gomez, Andrew Scholl, and Miriam Jackson

ABSENT: None

Staff: Harrison Wicks, Executive Assistant to the City Manager
Jim Bowling, City Engineer

Review of Meeting Summary Reports of October 14, 2019:

The meeting reports will not be approved due to a lack of a quorum. The reports will be held as a public record.

Public Comment

Ann Ward, 474 Longmere Drive, Kent, OH- Ms. Ward spoke in support of the Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) designation created by the League of American Bicyclists and that the City of Kent should submit an application. The designation would build awareness for bicycle and pedestrian safety.

OLD BUSINESS

Ad-hoc Committee Update- Mr. Wicks confirmed the next meeting of the ad-hoc committee is November 7, 2019 at 2pm. Mr. Andrews Boateng is planning to provide an update on the use of ArcGIS and other software platforms to gather data for the action plan.

Farmers' Market Update- Ms. Gomez confirmed she can contact Andrew Rome about the Sustainability Commission tabling at the market on February 8, 2020.

Informational Solar Energy Meeting- Mr. Wicks confirmed a call with representatives from the cities of Cuyahoga Falls, Tallmadge, and Ohio Solar United Neighbors (OH SUN). There was a consensus for City staff to meet with representatives from Cuyahoga County and OH SUN in 2020 to learn about the benefits of a solar co-op.

Single Use Plastic Public Awareness Campaign- Ms. Gomez commented the awareness campaign has served its purpose and that other campaigns will be considered in the future. There was a consensus to continue promoting the move away from single use plastics, however this specific public awareness campaign will end at the end of the year.

Community Outreach Update-

- a. Kent Environmental Council (KEC)- Mrs. Ruchotzke confirmed that KEC had their Fall Forum event.

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- b. KSU Office of Sustainability- No update. The wrap up meeting for the 2019 Green Energy Ohio tour still needs to be scheduled.
- c. Family & Community Services (F&CS)- No update.

Tree City Bulletin- Mr. Wicks confirmed he can share the Tree City Bulletin schedule for 2020.

2020 Environmental Film Series- There was a consensus that the film series will begin in February 2020 and should highlight TED talks with enough time for discussions after. There was a consensus to schedule the screenings on the 4th Mondays in 2020 with the tentative times below:

- 1. February 24, 2019 from 6:30-8pm.
- 2. March 23, 2019 from 6:30-8pm.
- 3. April 27, 2019 from 6:30-8pm.

Mr. Wicks will confirm the room reservation at the Kent Free Library. The TED Talk topics to be shown include:

- 1. 1st session- The Most Important Thing You Can do to Fight Climate Change: Talk About It and The Disarming Case to Act Right Now on Climate Change by: Greta Thunburg
- 2. 2nd session- Treasure, Not Trash: Composting and Food Recovery by: Denise Polk, Ph.D and Why You Should Shop at Your Local Farmers Market
- 3. 3rd session- Bicycle Culture by Design and 4 Ways to Make a City More Walkable by: Jeff Speck

NEW BUSINESS

Waste Stream Reform- No update.

Bicycle Friendly Community- Ms. Ward spoke in support of the Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) designation created by the League of American Bicyclists and that the City of Kent should submit an application. The designation would build awareness for bicycle and pedestrian safety. Mr. Bowling spoke on the potential benefits of the BFC and the continuous improvement that comes with it. The application process results in a feedback report card from the League of American Bicyclists to encourage improvement. Mr. Bowling confirmed there is a bike master plan and would be used in conjunction with the feedback report card. Mr. Wicks commented that increased bicycle awareness, education, and safety resulting from this designation would help prevent accidents that endanger the lives of pedestrians and bicyclists. Ms. Gomez made a motion to recommend that City Council consider applying for the BFC designation created by the League of American Bicyclists. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Ruchotzke and approved with a 4-0 vote.

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OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Ruchotzke made a motion to remove the solar energy meeting from old business. Motion was seconded by Dr. Scholl and approved with a 4-0 vote.

Ms. Gomez made a motion to remove the single use plastic campaign from old business. Motion was seconded by Ms. Jackson and was approved with a 4-0 vote.

NEXT MEETING

January 6, 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Gomez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ruchotzke and was approved with a 4-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:58pm.