

Sustainability Commission Meeting November 14, 2016

Meeting called to order at 5:38pm by Mrs. Ann Gilmore

Roll Call: Rick Hawksley, Ann Gilmore, Judy Nelson, and Julie Morris.

ABSENT: Nadine Gomez

Mrs. Morris made a motion to excuse Ms. Gomez. Motion was seconded by Mr. Hawksley and was approved with a 4-0 vote.

Staff: Suzanne Stemnock, Executive Assistant to the City Manager

Review of Meeting Summary Reports of October 10, 2016:

Mrs. Gilmore made a motion to approve the summary reports from October. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Morris and was approved with 4-0.

Public Comment

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

The update from the Kent State University students on their recycling project was postponed since no representatives were in attendance.

The Commission reviewed the downtown business recycling survey results. It was mentioned that about thirteen businesses responded to the survey. Ms. Nelson observed that there seems to be a lack of uniformity in the recycling services used by the businesses. She noted that there were many “unknown” answers. It was agreed that the Commission would like to discuss business recycling with the Service Director at the next meeting. Mrs. Gilmore mentioned that five businesses were interested in a follow-up which was positive.

Mrs. Gilmore asked to postpone the discussion on the rain barrel workshop until she’s had more time to research possibilities.

Then, Mrs. Gilmore notified the group that Council had deferred the plastic bag discussion until the November 16th Council meeting. She will be able to provide the Commission with an update at their next meeting.

Mr. Hawksley shared his experiment to convert an old recycling bin into a composting bin. He explained how he purchased the worms and made adjustments to the bin. So far the worms seem to be doing well. Ms. Nelson shared her previous experience with worm composting. Mrs. Morris stated she thinks it would be good to do a compost bin workshop at the Haymaker Farmers’ Market. The

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Commission agreed they will work on the logistics of hosting this type of workshop in the near future.

Next, the Commission discussed the Tree City Bulletin and possibly trying to reduce the printing. Mrs. Morris shared some ideas she had come up with for possible article topics for the next edition of the Bulletin. It was agreed that the topic for the Spring edition should be Earth Day. The possibility of a free item exchange on Earth Day was also discussed. Mrs. Gilmore and Mrs. Morris will do more research on the possibility of holding the exchange.

Mr. Hawksley is working on gathering more information on working with a non-profit for possible grants. Mrs. Gilmore shared is still trying to work with Main Street Kent on the possibility of applying for assistance with pollinator gardens. She thinks it would be best to try to apply next year. The Commission agreed to continue to discuss grant options.

The Commission decided they would like to try to attend the December 10th Haymaker Farmers' Market. Mrs. Gilmore will contact the Market for a space.

Finally, the Commission briefly discussed the current utica well reports and a map of injection wells in Ohio. The Commission confirmed that there had been no changes in Portage County since their last meeting. The Commission agreed there are still no real concerns at this time.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Commission agreed to defer selecting a Chairperson until the next meeting when all members are in attendance.

Ms. Nelson mentioned she would like the Commission to look further into textile recycling and clothing centers so she would like this added to the agenda for the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING

December 12, 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Nelson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Morris and was approved by a 4-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:49pm.