

Sustainability Commission Meeting September 12, 2016

Meeting called to order at 5:36pm by Chairperson Erik Zemljic

Roll Call: Rick Hawksley, Nadine Gomez, Ann Gilmore, Erik Zemljic and Julie Morris

Staff: Suzanne Stemnock, Executive Assistant to the City Manager

Review of Meeting Summary Reports of August 15, 2016:

Mr. Hawksley made a motion to approve the summary report from August. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gilmore and was approved with 5-0.

Public Comment

None

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Stemnock notified the Commission that a reminder concerning the recycling survey had been sent out to the businesses by Main Street Kent at the end of August. Mr. Zemljic let the Commission know that there has been a decent amount of responses. He will have the responses calculated for the next meeting.

The Commission then discussed the next steps in their plastic bag research. They considered questioning residents about their thoughts on the future of plastic bags in the City of Kent. Mrs. Morris shared information with the Commission she collected from various stores about their reusable bag programs. She also expressed her concern that many of the grocers in the area are not actually located within the City limits. The Commission discussed the possibility of a hybrid plan to decrease the use of plastic bags. This plan could include concepts like banning, taxation, and recycling. Mrs. Gilmore shared some examples of the bags she has created for the possible bag share program and her work to gain more volunteers to help make the bags. The possibility of applying for a grant to fund people to help make the bags was also discussed. Mr. Zemljic notified the Commission that he is having his class create recycling goals for the Commission based on the meeting minutes from the last several years. He would like the students to possibly attend the Commission's next meeting to discuss the project. Their ideas on goals could be possible actions to use for grant applications as well. Mrs. Gilmore will work on plastic bag informational flier to hand out at the Haymaker Farmers' Market where the Commission will also work on gathering opinions from those who attend the market. The Commission also agreed they need to take more time to work on their research before presenting to Council.

Mrs. Morris shared her draft article for the Tree City Bulletin on sustainability. The Commission suggested a few changes she will make to the article prior to submitting it for printing.

Next, the Commission also agreed to attend the Haymaker Farmers' Market again later this month as well. Mrs. Morris and Mrs. Gilmore will work on adjusting the sustainability pamphlet Mrs. Morris created in order to distribute it at the Market.

Mrs. Gilmore contacted Main Street Kent concerning the Adopt-A-Spot program and the possible

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addition of pollinator gardens. She will update the Commission when she receives a response. The two main ideas discussed by the Commission for a possible grant application has been pollinator gardens and the bag share program. The Commission will continue to considered possible application ideas prior to making a final selection.

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.

NEW BUSINESS

The Commission agreed they would summarize the notes from their previous and upcoming attendances at the Farmersö Market for discussion at the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

NEXT MEETING

October 10, 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Gomez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Morris and was approved by a 5-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:59pm.