

Sustainability Commission Meeting August 15, 2016

Meeting called to order at 5:33pm 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

Mrs. Morris gave an introduction of herself to the Commission. She explained that she has a degree from Chatham University in Sustainability. She explained some of her background and experience in sustainability through her education. Mrs. Morris further discussed her interest in economic, environmental, and social impacts which she hopes to be able to apply in Kent.

Each member gave Mrs. Morris a brief background of their interest and experience in sustainability as well.

Review of Meeting Summary Report from July 18, 2016:

Mr. Hawksley made a motion to approve the summary reports from July. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gilmore and was approved with 4-0-1, with Mrs. Morris abstaining.

Public Comment

Lorraine McCarty, 210 Orchard Street: Ms. McCarty explained her role on the Kent Environmental Council and her appearance before Council to explain her concerns with carbon pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. She discussed the Kent Environmental Council's grant program and some of the projects that have been awarded grants through the program. The Environmental Council is interested in helping the Commission as well.

Ms. McCarty further discussed items she discussed before Council including the need of a climate action plan. She gave several ideas and goals that could be a part of this action plan. Some examples included items such as insulating outside wall light switches, installing closed cell foam in window jams, using a device to measure the amount of energy they use, and expansion of volt meters for electric car usage. Ms. McCarty gave several examples of how other cities are working to reduce carbon emissions and other helpful resources for programs and projects to make residences more sustainable. The discussion continued about a sustainable community center in addition to the new city hall.

Bill Wilen, 867 Stonewater Drive: Mr. Wilen is also a member of the Kent Environmental Council. He also explained some of his experience and interest in sustainability. He discussed his work with the author, Naomi Klein, on her book "This Changes Everything" which has given him an increased interest in sustainability.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Stemnock gave the Commission an update on the downtown business recycling survey. She explained that she had requested a few changes on the survey from Mr. Zemljic which she received today. She will be working with Main Street Kent to get the survey distributed to businesses by email as soon as possible.

**Sustainability Commission Meeting Summary
August 15, 2016**

The Commission discussed the plastic bag ideas that Ms. Gomez had put together in a summary. The bag share program seems to be a very popular idea. Mrs. Morris expressed interest in working to get a grant to have people make the bags for the share program. The Commission agreed to work on making some updates and changes to the summary prior to the next meeting for further discussion.

Next, the Commission talked about possible Tree City Bulletin article topics and the one that was agreed upon was what is sustainable. Mrs. Morris offered to work on an article for the next edition of the Tree City Bulletin. The Commission agreed to have Mrs. Morris create a draft article to be discussed at the next meeting.

Mrs. Gilmore shared a possible grant idea for submission next year. She told the group about the idea of pollinator gardens in tree lawns. Obstacles and issues for this program were discussed. Another possible option that was discussed was reusable bags. The members believe that the grant is due at the beginning of next year so they can give some thought to more ideas. The Commission agreed that they will bring more ideas for possible grant applications to the next meeting.

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

None

OTHER BUSINESS

None

NEXT MEETING

September 12, 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Gomez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hawksley and was approved by a 5-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:34pm.