

Sustainability Commission Meeting July 18, 2016

Meeting called to order at 5:37pm by Chairperson Erik Zemljic

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

Staff: Suzanne Stemnock, Executive Assistant to the City Manager

Review of Meeting Summary Reports of May 9, 2016:

Mr. Hawksley made a motion to approve the summary reports from May. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gomez and was approved with 3-0-1, with Mrs. Gilmore abstaining.

Public Comment

None

OLD BUSINESS

The Commission began by discussing the downtown business recycling survey. Mr. Zemljic gave the Commission some background information on a class he teaches at Kent State University. He explained this could be a possible opportunity for the Commission to have the students gather data and complete research for them. Mr. Zemljic furthered to tell the Commission about the Portage County Recycling master plan. He continued to give more information about some of the research he had done while completing the Commission's downtown recycling survey. The Commission continued the discussion by talking about the next steps to get their current survey completed and sent out to businesses. Once the requested changes from the Commission are made, it will be sent to the businesses.

The Commission discussed recent bag information they had seen, such as promotions to discourage the use of plastic bags. Mr. Hawksley suggested the Commission use this as another opportunity to educate the public. The Commission agreed that a long term plan to reduce the use of plastic bags would most likely be most effective. Ms. Gomez agreed she will work on a long term plan to share with the Commission. This will be further discussed at the next meeting.

The last Tree City Bulletin article on composting was discussed. It was agreed that the next article topic could be on keeping downtown beautiful. Each member will bring ideas to use in this to the next meeting. This led to the Commission agreeing they should attend another Haymaker Farmers' Market in August.

The Commission briefly discussed the possible grants offered by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). They agreed the best grant to possibly apply for would be the educational grant. The Commission decided to each bring several 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

August 15, 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Gomez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hawksley and was approved by a 4-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm.