

Sustainability Commission Meeting May 9, 2016

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

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

ABSENT: Ann Gilmore

Guest: Theodore Newman

Staff: Suzanne Stemnock, Executive Assistant to the City Manager

Mr. Hawksley made a motion to excuse Mrs. Gilmore. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gomez and was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Review of Meeting Summary Report from April 4, 2016:

Mr. Hawksley a motion to approve the summary report from April. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gomez and was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Public Comment

None

OLD BUSINESS

The Commission began by discussing the downtown business recycling survey. Mr. Zemljic updated the Commission on the current status of the survey and the research he completed on other surveys on this topic. He discussed some other types of surveys he read based on the information the Commission is looking to gain from the survey. Mr. Zemljic continued to discuss how the types of questions will guide the information that will ultimately be obtained. The members discussed the introduction to be included at the beginning of the survey. They agreed that the basis of this survey is to begin to gather information and if needed a follow-up would be possible. Ms. Gomez specified that this could also be used as an opportunity to educate the businesses. The Commission stressed the importance of keeping it simple and precise in order to get answers and results. Mr. Zemljic stated he will have a draft ready for review in about a week.

Next, the Commission revisited the plastic bag discussion. Mrs. Stemnock notified the Commission that Mrs. Gilmore is trying to tentatively hold a meeting with possible volunteers to work on the plastic share bag project either this month or in June. She is hoping to have more information to share with the Commission at the next meeting.

It was agreed that Ms. Gomez will write a draft article for the Fall Tree City Bulletin on composting to be reviewed at 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

Lastly, Mr. Zemljic gave some information on grants he had found online through the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Many of the grants' deadlines have passed this year, but one is still available. That grant is an environmental education grant. The Commission discussed possible topics that could be applied for and it was agreed that it would be a tight timeline to apply during this round. The Commission decided to continue to consider topics for future rounds of grant possibilities.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

NEXT MEETING

June 13, 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hawksley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gomez and was approved by a 3-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm.