

Sustainability Commission Meeting April 4, 2016

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

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

Staff: Suzanne Stemnock, Executive Assistant to the City Manager

Review of Meeting Summary Reports of December 14, 2015, January 25, 2016, and March 7, 2016:

Ms. Gomez made a motion to approve the summary reports from December. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hawksley and was approved with 3-0-2 vote, with Mr. Newman and Mrs. Gilmore abstaining.

Mr. Hawksley made a motion to approve the summary reports from January. The motion was seconded by Mr. Newman and was approved with 3-0-2 vote, with Ms. Gomez and Mrs. Gilmore abstaining.

Mr. Newman made a motion to approve the summary reports from March. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gomez and was approved with 4-0-1 vote, with Mr. Zemljic abstaining.

Public Comment

None

OLD BUSINESS

The Commission began the meeting by discussing the downtown business recycling survey. They agreed that the survey should be created so it can be completed online and then emailed to the bars and restaurants downtown. It was also agreed that the person completing the survey or the contact person could be anonymous, but it would be preferred if they at least provide their business name. Multiple choice questions can allow the survey taker to select more than one response if necessary. The Commission discussed possible questions for the survey. It was determined that the questions should be simplistic and if a follow up survey is necessary it can be completed. An introduction should be included at the beginning of the survey along with a thank you. The draft questions that were chosen for the survey include:

1. Do you currently recycle the following at your business?

Paper, Cardboard, Metal/Cans, Glass, Food Waste, None of the Above (multiple choice, more than one choice available)

2. Which items would you be willing to recycle if feasible?

Paper, Cardboard, Metal/Cans, Glass, Food Waste, None of the Above, Currently Recycle all of the Above (multiple choice, more than one choice available)

3. If you do not recycle, what are your obstacles?

Cost, Space, Convenience, No Interest, Landlord, Other, please explain (multiple choice, more than one choice available and open response field for other)

4. Do you currently have recycling available to your patrons? (Yes or No, multiple choice)

5. Do you provide recyclable or biodegradable take-out containers, bags, or packages? (Yes or No, multiple choice)

6. Would you like assistance to improve or establish recycling at your business? (Yes or No, multiple choice) If so, please provide contact information.

7. Do you have any other comments to help make Kent a greener community? (open response field)

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OLD BUSINESS CONT.

Next, the Commission continued their discussion on the possibility of banning plastic bags as requested by Council. Mr. Newman shared information he compiled related to plastic bags. Mrs. Gilmore suggested a reusable bag share program as a way to ease into decreasing the use of plastic bags. It was agreed that the bag share is a good idea and Mrs. Gilmore will look further into how to create a program. She will bring an update on the creation of a bag share to the next meeting, prior to providing information to Council or the public.

It was agreed that Mr. Hawksley will write a draft article for the Tree City Bulletin on the background of the Commission and the current issues they are discussing.

Lastly, 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

May 9, 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hawksley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gomez and was approved by a 5-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16pm.