

Sustainability Commission Meeting May 1, 2017

Meeting called to order at 5:37 pm by Chairperson Nadine Gomez

Roll Call: Judy Nelson, Julie Morris, Nadine Gomez and Rick Hawksley

ABSENT: Ann Gilmore

Ms. Gomez made a motion to excuse Mrs. Gilmore. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Morris and was approved with a 4-0 vote.

Staff: Suzanne Stemnock, Executive Assistant to the City Manager

Review of Meeting Summary Reports of March 6, 2017 and April 3, 2017:

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

Mrs. Morris made a motion to approve the summary reports from April with a name correction. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Nelson and was approved with a 3-0-1 vote, with Mr. Hawksley abstaining.

Public Comment

None

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Stemnock notified the Commission that Mrs. Gilmore provided her with an update on the bag share program. Mrs. Stemnock shared that Mrs. Gilmore went to a custom t-shirt shop and they are mocking up a label that can be affixed to the bag share bags. Mrs. Stemnock continued to update the Commission on the rain barrels for the workshop. She let them know that the City will hopefully have the supplies for the workshop this month. Mrs. Stemnock shared concerns over liabilities for the holes that need to be drilled in the barrels. The Commission agreed that it would be good to have the barrels pre-drilled prior to the workshop. If this is not possible they agreed that the homeowner should be responsible for the holes to be drilled.

Mrs. Morris notified the Commission that she has been working on gathering local sustainability information that could be available to the public eventually. She provided the Commission with an example from the Kent Environmental Council how the information may be made available on their website. Mrs. Morris asked the Commission for other suggestions or additions that should be added to the community information. She further explained that she's been attending the board meetings for Haven of Portage County and described the benefits of this new resource. Additionally, she has been attending the Kent Environmental Council meetings and she will be meeting with Kent State Sustainability in a couple weeks. The Commission discussed some possible projects that they could partner with the University

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on, most of which they had discussed previously.

Mrs. Nelson notified the Commission that she has no update on recycling. Mrs. Gomez explained the background of the clothing recycling program. Mrs. Stemnock and Mrs. Nelson will request an update on the clothing recycling from the Service Department.

Next, the Commission began to discuss possible future topics for the Tree City Bulletin. They agreed that the clothing recycling would be a good article topic eventually. Another possible topic that was discussed at length was the impact global warming could have on Kent. Other ideas that were discussed included how the social elements impact sustainability and storm sewers. The Commission agreed they would consider these ideas more prior to the next meeting.

Lastly, the Commission discussed the possibility of attending the Haymaker Farmers' Market in May. Mrs. Morris would like to establish a regular plan to attend the Market in the future. The Commission agreed they would like to attend the May 20th Market. They will use the information they have including seed bombs and planting for the Market.

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

NEXT MEETING

June 5, 2017

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hawksley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Nelson and was approved by a 4-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:23pm.