

Sustainability Commission Meeting October 2, 2017

Meeting called to order at 5:40 pm by Chairperson Nadine Gomez

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

ABSENT: Ann Gilmore

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

Staff: Harrison Wicks, Executive Assistant to the City Manager
Bridget Susel, Director of Community Development

Review of Special Meeting Summary Reports of July 24, 2017:

Ms. Gomez made a motion to approve the summary reports from July 24th. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Morris and was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Review of Meeting Summary Reports of August 7, 2017:

The meeting reports will not be approved due to a lack of a quorum. The reports will be held as a public record.

Review of Meeting Summary Reports of September 11, 2017:

The meeting reports will not be approved due to a lack of a quorum. The reports will be held as a public record.

Public Comment

Roger DiPaolo/Family & Community Services (F&CS), 705 Oakwood Street, Ravenna, OH - Mr. DiPaolo wanted to present further information regarding the County Clothing Center operated by F&CS in Ravenna. Mr. DiPaolo presented that 97% of what is received by the County Clothing Center is either reused by the center or sent to other locations in Northeast Ohio through a process known as 'in mission.' As for what cannot be used and is ultimately thrown away amounts to 3% of what the center receives. Additionally, Mr. DiPaolo expressed an interest in pursuing a partnership between F&CS and Simple Recycling for hauling unusable clothing from the County Clothing Center. Mr. DiPaolo and F&CS will reach out to Simple Recycling to learn more about a potential agreement.

OLD BUSINESS

Recycling Update- The Commission spoke about the next steps following the City Council's decision to fail the Simple Recycling resolution during the previous council meeting. Ms. Susel explained that the resolution was not approved for the 3rd reading and failed due to a lack of support by City Council. The City Council is however still scheduled to discuss Simple Recycling and so the Commission will be able to make a recommendation to Council for Simple Recycling. Mrs. Morris wanted to know how the recommendation process works.

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Ms. Susel explained that the Commission can recommend City Council consider a new resolution on Simple Recycling or that Council postpone the current item indefinitely until a future date when it can be readdressed and discussed. Mrs. Morris commented that she thinks the Commission should still have the option to bring the Simple Recycling item back up for consideration in the future and Ms. Susel confirmed that postponing indefinitely will allow for this. Mrs. Morris commented that if the item is postponed, it will allow for more time to research other possible services the City could use. Mrs. Nelson wanted to know if F&CS would have drop sites in Kent in the future that will help the Portage County Clothing Center expand its services and reach more people? Mr. DiPaolo confirmed drop sites in Kent would be discussed as a possibility. Mrs. Morris agreed that the Simple Recycling item should not disappear entirely and that postponing indefinitely would allow for it to be brought back. The Commission agreed that textile waste is still a problem that needs to be addressed and this time can be used to continue gathering research.

Mrs. Morris made a motion **to recommend that City Council make a motion to postpone indefinitely the consideration of the Simple Recycling program to a time when further information has been gathered on certain aspects of the program.** Ms. Gomez seconded. Motion was approved 3-0.

Paris Climate Agreement resolution- Mrs. Morris commented that preserving the climate action plan in the resolution is important. Mr. Wicks confirmed that an amendment to the resolution would not eliminate the language for the climate action plan. Mrs. Morris also commented that developing a climate action plan would most likely require multiple reviews from City Council but the development would still be completed. Currently the resolution will have a final third reading during the council meeting on Wednesday, October 18, 2017 and if the City Council were to fail the resolution, it will not be able to be reintroduced for one full year. The Commission expressed concern that if the resolution were to fail then it would be more difficult to reintroduce it later. Mrs. Morris agreed that the climate action plan will allow for the City to revisit data gathering programs such as the Compact of Mayors in the future. Mrs. Nelson wanted to make sure that section two of the resolution will not be amended entirely and Ms. Susel confirmed it would only be the portion of Section 2 that included the Compact of Mayors language. The Commission agreed that they do not want the resolution to fail and so recommending City Council amend the resolution is the most appropriate action. Mrs. Morris agreed that the amended resolution will create a good foundation for the future development of a climate action plan and should be approved.

Mrs. Nelson made a motion **to recommend that City Council make a motion to AMEND draft No. 17-83 in both Sections 1 & 2. Changes and strikeouts are highlighted in red below.** Ms. Gomez seconded. Motion was approved 3-0.

SECTION 1. *The City of Kent commits to consider for adoption ~~the~~ a climate action plan to be developed by the Sustainability Commission in response to the City's support of the Paris Climate Agreement and in accordance with this resolution.*

SECTION 2. The City of Kent, ~~with this resolution agrees to join the Compact of Mayors, and thereby~~, stands in solidarity with communities across the nation and the world in support of the Paris Climate Agreement.

Farmers Market Update- Ms. Gomez discussed potential dates for attending the Haymaker Farmers' Market. The Commission confirmed that **Saturday October 21, 2017** would be best. Ms. Gomez will contact Mr. Andrew Rome at the Haymaker Farmers' Market to confirm. Mrs. Nelson also wanted to make sure the Commission has Sustainability Month themed materials for tabling in October in light of the Proclamation by Mayor Fiala making October 2017 Sustainability Month in the City of Kent. For November, the Commission agreed that **Saturday, November 18, 2017** will be the preferred date. Ms. Gomez wanted to know what the Commission could do at the market. Ms. Gomez mentioned the possibility of doing a survey to see how many people use clothing donation centers in the Kent area and then have promotional items to give people from the Portage County Clothing Center and F&CS. Ms. Susel confirmed she will reach out to Mr. DiPaolo at F&CS about materials. Another idea was to promote the clothing center and F&CS by having a clothing drop box at the indoor farmers' market in November. Next steps: Ms. Gomez will contact Andrew Rome on available dates to attend the market. Also, if a clothing dropbox is guaranteed for the November 18th farmers' market, then the Commission can have paper reminders ready to hand out during the October 21st farmers' market event.

Community Information Update- The Kent Green Energy Ohio Tour took place last weekend and the event was successful. Feedback for ways to make the event better next year can be submitted to the Kent State University (KSU) Office of Sustainability. The Commission agreed that establishing the event for the first time will help future events. In addition, future events could be held in tandem with other events in downtown Kent to increase attendance. Mrs. Nelson commented that in the long run our goal is to do quality events and so we should consider doing the tour again next year. Mrs. Morris commented that she would still like to have the Commission work on the environmental database at some point. Lis Regula with the Kent Environmental Council and other parties at Kent State have expressed an interest in finding a professional to help develop the database. Additionally, Mrs. Nelson and Mrs. Morris confirmed they need to discuss with Leah and Melanie at the KSU Office of Sustainability about a documentary event and the possibility of having a booth. Next steps: Mrs. Morris will contact Leah and Melanie about the future documentary event.

Review fracking permits- Nothing has changed in the map, no discussion

NEW BUSINESS

Questions for candidates - During the City Council meeting on Wednesday, October 4, 2017, Council will interview 3 candidates for the vacant position on the Sustainability Commission. Below are questions that were approved by the Commission to be added to the list of questions to be asked to the interviewees:

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1. Why do you want to be on the Commission?
2. What specific issues would you like to see addressed on the Commission?
3. Would you commit time to complete tasks in the Commission?
4. Do you have time outside of once a month commission meetings to volunteer?

NEXT MEETINGS

November 6, 2017

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Gomez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Morris and was approved by a 3-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.