

Sustainability Commission Meeting December 4, 2017

Meeting called to order at 5:42 pm by senior commission member Ann Gilmore.

Roll Call: Julie Morris, Ann Gilmore, Miriam Jackson, and Nadine Gomez

ABSENT: Judy Nelson

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

Staff: Harrison Wicks, Executive Assistant to the City Manager

Review of Meeting Summary Reports of November 6, 2017:

Mrs. Morris made a motion to approve the summary reports from November. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gilmore and was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Public Comment

Bill Wilen, 867 Stonewater Drive, Kent, OH- Mr. Wilen commented that he is looking forward to the work of the Climate Action Plan ad-hoc committee that was created by the Sustainability Commission.

Jeremy Brown, 11343 Street, Route 88, Garrettsville, OH- Mr. Brown confirmed he was in attendance as work on a course project at Kent State University. Mr. Brown commented he is happy to see the Sustainability Commission meeting and covering important issues locally and nationally.

OLD BUSINESS

Climate Action Plan, Ad Hoc Committee- Mr. Wicks provided an update to the commission members and confirmed the first meeting of the ad hoc committee will be held Monday, December 11th at 12:30pm in the Community Development conference room located in the Service Administration Complex at 930 Overholt Road, Kent, OH. Mrs. Morris confirmed she will reach out to Mrs. Nelson to see if she will be in attendance. Mrs. Gilmore confirmed she can attend the ad hoc committee meeting if Mrs. Nelson cannot. Ms. Jackson commented if it would be possible for the ad hoc committee to review the climate policies and actions of other countries that signed on to the Paris Climate Agreement? Mr. Wicks confirmed he can conduct research on the actions of other countries to provide to the ad hoc committee. As for the ad hoc committee meetings, all commission members were in agreement that they should be copied on committee meeting emails so they are up-to-date on discussions. Mr. Wicks confirmed he will copy commission members on future ad hoc committee meeting emails. Mrs. Morris was curious to know if a climate action plan could also include a local donation stream network? In addition, could a 'market center' that serves as a central location for community events be added to the action plan? If so, Mr. Wicks could identify vacant buildings in Kent that could serve as a viable market center.

**Sustainability Commission Meeting Summary
December 4, 2017**

Farmers' Market Update- Mrs. Morris commented that she was happy with the last Farmers' Market turn out. Mrs. Morris put forward the idea of hosting a donation drive during a future Farmers' Market event, possibly the week before or during the clean-up. Mrs. Gilmore wanted to know if there was, or could be, a yearly program to pick up donations by truck in Kent? Mrs. Gilmore commented that a local company could donate a truck for a non-profit or other community organization to use. Mrs. Morris asked if non-profits or other organizations in the area have a truck to do pick-ups? Mr. Wicks confirmed he can research the status of transportation for local non-profits. Mrs. Morris commented that many people have a harder time addressing climate change when they are financially unstable. As a potential solution to replicate in Kent, Mrs. Morris identified the work of Birch Community Services (BCS) in Portland, Oregon. Mrs. Morris explained participants in a food program at BCS may volunteer time and work as a requirement before receiving the benefit of the program. Other offerings at BCS include courses on financial literacy, gardening, and cooking to empower individuals to be self-sufficient. Mrs. Gilmore commented that we have many of these services in the Kent area but they are separate from one another. The Commission agreed to do an activity at the upcoming Farmers' Market events in 2018. The proposed dates for the Farmers' Market are January 27, 2018 and February 24, 2018. For January 27th, the Commission agreed to make seed bombs. Mrs. Gilmore confirmed she has left over clay from the first time seed bombs were made and will be able to use it again. For February 24th, the Commission agreed to collect food donations for Kent Social Services and/or Miller House. Ms. Gomez confirmed she can reach out to Andrew Rome at Haymaker Farmers' Market to reserve these dates. Mrs. Gilmore confirmed she can email the organization 'Food Not Lawns' and the Kent Free Library about using their seeds for seed bombs. Mrs. Morris confirmed she can talk to Roger DiPaolo and other administrators for Kent Social Services and Miller Community House to get permission to do a donation drive on their behalf. Ms. Gomez commented that it would be beneficial to have questions commission members could ask people at the Farmers' Market related to the Climate Action Plan and other projects. In addition, Ms. Jackson commented on the possibility of making a booklet or pamphlet for low income residents that instructs them on how to be sustainable with little financial investment. Mr. Wicks confirmed he can conduct research into actions or sustainable practices that can be done with little or no investment to include in the booklet. Ms. Jackson confirmed she can start developing a list as well.

Community Information Update- The Commission agreed that the 4-film series is a good idea. Mr. Wicks explained he spoke to the Kent Free Library (KFL) staff and Jeff Ingram at the Standing Rock Cultural Arts (SRCA) about a potential collaboration for the event. Mr. Wicks confirmed he will provide another update on the film series at the upcoming meeting. The Commission tentatively agreed on the following dates to hold the film series:

- A. Monday, January 22nd
- B. Monday, February 26th
- C. Monday, March 19th
- D. Monday, April 9th

**Sustainability Commission Meeting Summary
December 4, 2017**

Mr. Wicks will contact KFL to confirm these dates. All showings will start at 6:30pm and end no later than 8:30pm. Mr. Wicks confirmed he will contact Jeff Ingram at SRCA and ask for a list of recommended films from the SRCA collection. The Commission agreed to have the films selected on or before the next commission meeting.

Review Fracking Permits- No changes.

NEW BUSINESS

Tree City Bulletin Article- City Council agreed the City of Kent's resolution of support for the Paris Climate Agreement should be included in the spring 2018 Tree City Bulletin. Mrs. Morris confirmed she can begin brainstorming a description to include with the resolution on behalf of the Commission.

Hazardous Waste- Ms. Gomez commented on the need for more disposal services for household hazardous waste materials. Ms. Gomez put forward the idea of holding a hazardous waste disposal event for Kent residents and asked if an initiative like this could be added to the Climate Action Plan? Mr. Wicks confirmed he can research details on current disposal services available for Kent residents as well as a potential household hazardous waste disposal event.

Data Gathering, Kent State University Geography Department- Ms. Jackson spoke with a representative in the Geography Department and received contact information for faculty that may be interested in collecting data for the Climate Action Plan. Ms. Jackson confirmed that faculty would have an interest because they will be able to publish their findings.

Sustainability Commission Representative to Kent State- Ms. Jackson commented that she would like to be approved by the Commission as the liaison to Kent State University (KSU). Mrs. Morris commended Ms. Jackson's enthusiasm and commented that she and Mrs. Nelson have built a relationship with Melanie Knowles and Leah Graham in the Office of Sustainability over the years and that the Commission does not have a role of liaison to Kent State University. In addition, Mrs. Morris commented that Melanie and Leah work with the Commission on numerous projects. Ms. Gomez commented that to approve a liaison may create a duplication of effort since Melanie and Leah are already working with the Commission. Ms. Jackson commented that if approved as liaison she would like to ask President Warren to 1) collaborate with the Commission on the Climate Action Plan and 2) message Kent State staff and students asking for participation with the Sustainability Commission on the Climate Action Plan. Ms. Jackson confirmed that the support and coordination from President Warren's Office is important. The Commission agreed that coordination with President Warren's Office is important but there is concern that now is not the right time. Ms. Gomez commented that the Commission needs to have a well thought-out plan or proposal before we reach out to President Warren's Office. Mrs. Morris made a motion to approve Ms. Jackson's action to reach out to Melanie Knowles in the KSU Office

Pg. 4

**Sustainability Commission Meeting Summary
December 4, 2017**

of Sustainability to discuss projects and potential involvement from President Warren's Office. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gomez and was approved with a 4-0 vote. The Commission agreed not to create a campus liaison at this time.

NEXT MEETINGS

January 8, 2018

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Gomez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Morris and was approved by a 4-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:09pm.