

Sustainability Commission Meeting January 8, 2018

Meeting called to order at 5:40 pm by Julie Morris.

Roll Call: Julie Morris, Ann Gilmore, Judy Nelson, and Miriam Jackson

ABSENT: Nadine Gomez

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

Staff: Harrison Wicks, Executive Assistant to the City Manager

Review of Meeting Summary Reports of December 4, 2017:

Mrs. Morris made a motion to approve the summary reports from December. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gilmore and was approved with a 3-0-1 vote. Mrs. Nelson abstained.

Public Comment

None

OLD BUSINESS

Tree City Bulletin Article- Mr. Wicks mentioned that Leah Graham from the Kent State University (KSU) Office of Sustainability wanted to include information on the KSU Recycle Mania challenge in the Tree City Bulletin. There was a consensus that including the event information would be a good idea. Mr. Wicks confirmed City Council had previously supported the idea of including the Resolution of Support for the Paris Climate Agreement in the Tree City Bulletin. Mrs. Nelson volunteered to write a summary on the importance of the resolution to include in the Tree City Bulletin as well. Mrs. Morris will review the draft summary once it is created. Mr. Wicks confirmed articles for the bulletin will be due Wednesday, February 7th.

Ad Hoc Committee Update- Mr. Wicks confirmed the next meeting of the ad hoc committee will be Monday, January 22nd from 4-5pm. Mr. Wicks provided an update on the activities of the ad hoc committee. Mrs. Morris recommended researching the actions of other cities that have completed similar plans such as Austin, TX, Portland, OR, and Des Moines, IA. Mrs. Morris also recommended researching the '100 Resilient Cities' initiative for beneficial resources. Mrs. Morris commented that grants could be available for climate action plans through the Rockefeller Foundation or the '100 Resilient Cities' initiative. Also if the ad hoc committee would like to use student interns, they could facilitate work as school credit. Mrs. Morris commented on the idea of establishing a sustainability coordinator position by encouraging an environment where a coordinator position could be created. Mrs. Jackson commented about the use of service learning as an approach to attract interns or other professionals looking for meaningful work. Mrs. Jackson commented the English Department

**Sustainability Commission Meeting Summary
January 8, 2018**

at Kent State could provide interested students. Mrs. Morris commented she spoke to Dr. Mary Whitney at Chatham University in Pittsburgh, PA on the possibility of student internships. Mrs. Morris was curious to know the formality and limitations of internships at the City of Kent? Mr. Wicks confirmed he can conduct research to learn more about the internship process. Mrs. Jackson confirmed she is meeting with Melanie Knowles at the KSU Office of Sustainability next Tuesday, January 16th to introduce herself and learn about KSU initiatives.

Farmers' Market Update- Andrew Rome confirmed that the commission is scheduled to attend the market on Saturday, January 27th. Mrs. Gilmore confirmed she will bring seed bombs to distribute to visitors. She is also planning to contact the Kent Free Library for more seeds. Mrs. Morris confirmed she will reach out to Roger DiPaolo and Sandy Halem with Family & Community Services (F&CS) to coordinate the creation of flyers for the upcoming food donation drive during the February 24th farmers' market. Mrs. Morris confirmed the donation drive will benefit Kent Social Services and the Miller Community House both located in Kent. Mrs. Morris and Mrs. Gilmore confirmed they can attend the market from 10-11:30am. Ms. Gomez previously confirmed she can attend from 11:30-1pm.

Community Information Update- Mrs. Morris commented that Grange Hall in Kent could be a good meeting area for future community events. Mrs. Morris confirmed in her conversation with Dr. Mary Whitney that a proposed environmental database on the Kent Environmental Council (KEC) website could use a NEO 4J database system. Mrs. Morris could not confirm how this system would function but she was hopeful a volunteer at KSU would be able to implement such a system. Mrs. Morris commented that the database should be added as an action item to the Climate Action Plan to ensure it is completed. Mr. Wicks provided an update for the spring 2018 Environmental Film Series. There was a consensus that the commission will reach out to other community organizations to promote the event such as the KEC, KSU, and the local high school. Mrs. Nelson confirmed she will speak to Mr. Carmen at Theodore Roosevelt High School in Kent to promote the event. Mrs. Jackson confirmed she will distribute flyers on the KSU campus.

Review Fracking Permits- No changes.

NEW BUSINESS

'We Are Still In' Campaign- Mr. Wicks explained the 'We Are Still In' network and recommended the Sustainability Commission join on behalf of the City of Kent. There is little commitment beyond supporting a declaration letter to uphold the values of the Paris Climate Agreement, which the City Council previously confirmed in their resolution of support. Mrs. Gilmore made a motion to join the 'We Are Still In' network. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Jackson and was approved with a 4-0 vote.

Chickens within City Limits- Mrs. Nelson expressed an interest in future discussions on

Pg. 3

**Sustainability Commission Meeting Summary
January 8, 2018**

allowing chickens within City limits in a residential setting. Currently chickens are limited to properties of no less than 2 acres within City limits.

NEXT MEETING

February 5, 2018

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Morris 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 7:12pm.