

Sustainability Commission Meeting February 5, 2018

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

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

ABSENT: Ann Gilmore

Mrs. Morris made a motion to excuse Mrs. Gilmore. 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 January 8, 2018:

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

Public Comment

None

OLD BUSINESS

Tree City Bulletin Article- Commission members reviewed the article draft developed by Mrs. Nelson. Mrs. Morris commented that the Kent Environmental Council (KEC) was included in the draft because of their participation in helping develop the council resolution of support for the Paris Climate Agreement. During this time, Kent State University (KSU) representatives were not able to collaborate and so were not included in the article draft. Mrs. Nelson confirmed only KEC was a part of the collaboration. Mrs. Morris also commented that it was important to highlight the background of the council resolution of support so residents will have a greater understanding. There was a consensus among commission members that no major changes were needed to the article draft and was approved.

Ad Hoc Committee Update- Mrs. Morris reflected on the ad-hoc committee meeting from January 22nd. She commented that the committee is gathering research on how to create an internship for students to gain college credit. She commented that professors at KSU are currently doing cutting edge research in the field of climate and sustainability and would like to utilize these resources in Kent. Mrs. Morris commented that Mrs. Knowles with the KSU Office of Sustainability should be the commission's main contact to help facilitate partnerships at KSU in the future. Mrs. Morris also reiterated that one permanent liaison from the commission to KSU is not necessary because all members of the commission serve as liaisons. Ms. Gomez and Mrs. Nelson agreed. Mrs. Jackson commented that from a standpoint of efficiency it would be better to have one person as a KSU liaison. Mrs. Morris commented that the work on greenhouse gas (GHG) data by Mr. Boateng on the ad-hoc committee is important to the Climate Action Plan (CAP). Mrs. Morris confirmed that the ad-hoc committee is currently working to get access to ICLEI's GHG inventory software known as

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ClearPath Basic. Also, Mrs. Morris confirmed the ad-hoc committee is working to identify community stakeholders. The next meeting will be held February 19th. Mr. Wicks confirmed he will email the minutes of the ad-hoc committee to the commission members.

Farmers' Market Update- The commission members confirmed the next event at the market will be February 24th. Mrs. Morris confirmed the commission is hosting a donation drive for the Miller Community House/Kent Social Services (KSS) with support from Family & Community Services (F&CS) representatives. Mrs. Morris confirmed she can reach out to Mr. DiPaolo and see who will be attending from F&CS on behalf of Miller Community House or KSS to explain their mission. Mr. Wicks confirmed he will email the event flyer to Andrew Rome with the Haymaker Farmers' Market to hand out during Saturday events leading to February 24th. Mrs. Morris confirmed in the event the commission will need to transport donations to F&CS, she will bring her car for transport. Ms. Gomez and Mrs. Nelson confirmed they will attend the market on the 24th from 10-11:30am. Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Morris confirmed they will attend the market 11:30-1pm. Mrs. Jackson commented that a future idea for the market could be making environmentally friendly screen printed t-shirts. The slogan "SustainableKent" was presented as a potential stamp design.

Community Information Update- Mrs. Morris presented new information on the sustainable database that was being developed for the KEC website. Print outs of the database were presented to the commission and will be uploaded to the KEC website. The page highlights sustainable organizations and environmental groups in the hope that individuals will reach out and connect with one another and collaborate on projects. Mrs. Morris commented the database will be administered by KEC administrators for now but in the future it may be jointly administered between KEC and the commission. Mrs. Jackson commented about the database potentially being used as a model to help low income residents become more sustainable. Mr. Wicks confirmed he will send commission members Mrs. Jackson's email regarding sustainable options for low income residents. Mr. Wicks also confirmed that he will reach out to F&CS to see what sustainable services are available to low income residents. Mrs. Morris commented on the work by Haven of Portage County and wanted to know the commission attitude for including their flyer on the commission's table during events. Ms. Gomez and Mrs. Nelson voiced concerns for adding their flyer since they are an openly religious organization. Mrs. Morris confirmed she will research the organization more before a decision is made and possibly invite a speaker to present at an upcoming meeting. Additionally, the commission was invited to participate in KSU's Earth Fest celebration on April 12th from 11-3pm in Rismann Plaza. The commission agreed to attend. Mr. Wicks confirmed he will contact the KSU Office of Sustainability and tell them the commission will attend the event. Mrs. Jackson also confirmed she and Mrs. Nelson will be meeting with the Geography Department on Friday, February 23rd to discuss ideas. Finally, Ms. Gomez commented on the Environmental Film Series and wanted to develop questions to ask audiences after the films. Mrs. Nelson commented about the advantages of holding a discussion before the movie began to engage those that might leave the film midway through the showing. Mrs. Nelson asked to have copies of the council resolution of support for the

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Paris Climate Agreement available for the film on February 26th. Mr. Wicks confirmed he will have copies available. Mrs. Jackson commented on the possibility of a potluck during a future film showing. Commission members agreed people should feel free to bring items if they choose.

Chickens- Mrs. Nelson explained the background of the original campaign back in 2011. Mrs. Nelson commented on the possibility of having a guest speaker attend to speak about the previous campaign. Mrs. Morris agreed that this was a good idea and wondered if there has been sufficient turnover on City Council since the previous campaign? Mrs. Morris commented there are many arguments in support of hens from a sustainability standpoint. Mrs. Nelson confirmed she will reach out to Bethany Snyder and Rick Hawksley to come speak at a future meeting.

Review Fracking Permits- No changes.

NEW BUSINESS

Future publications- Mrs. Jackson commented on the possibility of reaching out to the Kent Stater and the Record Courier to highlight the work of the Sustainability Commission. Mrs. Nelson commented the commission could submit an article to the Kent Stater and see if they will take it. Mrs. Morris agreed that a generic article highlighting the mission, vision, values of the commission could be beneficial but we are not ready to present on the Climate Action Plan. Mrs. Jackson commented she wanted to send a statement of support for KSU President Beverly Warren to affirm. In addition, Mrs. Jackson wanted to ask President Warren to send a message to KSU faculty asking for their participation in projects with the commission. Ms. Gomez recognized the importance of utilizing already developed relationships at KSU such as Mrs. Knowles in the KSU Office of Sustainability instead of going directly to President Warren. Mrs. Nelson agreed with Ms. Gomez and commented that any communication given to KSU should be approved by the commission first. Mrs. Morris agreed and commented that now is not the right time to ask President Warren, instead the commission can continue to develop relationships at KSU.

Hazardous Waste- Ms. Gomez commented on the need to address hazardous waste disposal/removal. There was a consensus that the annual spring cleanup is beneficial but it does not allow for the disposal of hazardous waste material. Ms. Gomez asked how much does a hazardous waste event cost. Ms. Gomez was curious what other options there are for hazard waste disposal in Kent or Portage County. For instance, Summit County has Reworks but there is no such organization for Portage County. Mr. Wicks confirmed he will conduct research to see what options there are for hazardous waste removal. Ms. Gomez confirmed when the commission previously discussed this, Portage County Recycling said it was too expensive to implement a program.

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NEXT MEETING

March 5, 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 7:54pm.