

Sustainability Commission Meeting April 9, 2018

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

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

ABSENT: Mim Jackson and Nadine Gomez

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

Mrs. Nelson made a motion to excuse Ms. Gomez. 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 February 5, 2018:

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

None

OLD BUSINESS

Ad-hoc Committee Update- Mrs. Morris provided a summary of the meeting in March and discussion regarding upcoming community meetings. In addition, there was discussion on potential funding sources to support the procurement of a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission software and labor for data gathering. Mrs. Nelson provided a summary of her meeting with the Kent State Geography Department. Mrs. Morris commented that the next steps of the Ad-hoc Committee will be to purchase membership to the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). Mrs. Nelson commented the ClearPath Pro software will be a useful tool to use to accomplish the Climate Action Plan (CAP). Mrs. Morris commented on the community meetings and confirmed they will be put on hold while the focus of the Ad-hoc Committee reorients to ICLEI membership and data gathering. Mrs. Nelson confirmed the Ad-hoc Committee presented on the process of the action plan to City Council and received positive feedback. Mrs. Morris commented that given the foreseeable change in Sustainability Commission membership since Mrs. Gilmore's term is ending May 19th, the new member may be an ideal addition to the Ad-hoc Committee.

Farmers' Market Update- Mrs. Morris commented that the Sustainability Commission partnered with Kent Social Services (KSS) to host a food drive during the last farmers' market appearance. The results of the food drive were positive. Mrs. Morris confirmed Ms. Gomez spoke to Christy with KSS during the food drive of potentially setting up a continuous donation box at the Sustainability Commission's table during farmers' market visits. Mrs.

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Morris commented the box could receive fresh produce donations directly from market patrons. Mrs. Nelson commented that it may be too large a commitment to make a donation box permanent and that responsibilities should be clearly defined. Mrs. Morris agreed and commented further discussion with the entire Sustainability Commission could be beneficial. Mrs. Nelson asked when the farmers' market returns to their outside location under the Haymaker Bridge. Mr. Wicks confirmed they will return the first weekend in May. There was a consensus the Sustainability Commission will try to attend the farmers' market on Saturday, May 12th. Mrs. Gilmore confirmed she can contact Andrew Rome to reserve a spot. Reservations for the morning session include Mrs. Morris and Mr. Wicks. Reservations for the afternoon session include Mrs. Gilmore. There was a consensus that the Sustainability Commission could host a clothing donation drive with the County Clothing Center (CCC) since May 12th will be during the annual Spring Clean Up program in Kent. Mrs. Morris confirmed she will contact Sandy Halem and Roger DiPaolo at Family & Community Services, Inc. (F&CS) to confirm availability. A clothing donation drive could possibly encourage a drop off center to be created at the previously identified Kent State University (KSU) Women's Center.

Community Information Update- Mr. Wicks provided an update on the Spring Environmental Film Series and the final screening to be held Tuesday, April 10th at the Kent Free Library. Guest Speaker and filmmaker Katie Young is scheduled to speak following the film. Mr. Wicks confirmed the KSU Earth Fest will be held Thursday, April 12th and the Sustainability Commission is planning to have a table. Mrs. Morris confirmed she could attend the morning session and Mrs. Nelson confirmed she could attend when available. Ms. Gomez can also be contacted to confirm her availability. Mrs. Gilmore confirmed she will attend the film series and drop off re-useable bags for Mrs. Morris to pick up and distribute during the KSU Earth Fest. Mr. Wicks also commented the Who's Your Mama Block Party as a part of the Standing Rock Cultural Arts' Earth Day Festival will be held Saturday, April 21st. There was a consensus the Sustainability Commission would not attend the block party this year due to scheduling limitations.

Chickens- Mrs. Nelson confirmed she would like to have a guest speaker attend the June meeting to speak on past movements and organizing for chickens in Kent. Mrs. Nelson also commented on potential requirements of owning chickens, including an educational requirement that could be completed in partnership with the Haymaker Farmers' Market. Residents with chickens could attend a workshop and get certified at the market.

Review Fracking Permits- No changes.

NEW BUSINESS

Household Hazardous Waste- Mr. Wicks confirmed he can collect more research on hazardous waste removal programs. Also, the Habitat for Humanity of Portage County does a collection of paint, batteries, latex, and other products once a year as part of an annual

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cleanup event. Mr. Wicks confirmed he could reach out to the organization to learn more.

NEXT MEETING

May 7, 2018

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Gilmore made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Nelson and was approved by a 3-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:04pm.