

## Sustainability Commission Meeting September 11, 2018

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

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

ABSENT: None

Staff: Harrison Wicks, Executive Assistant to the City Manager

Review of Meeting Summary Reports of August 6, 2018:

Mrs. Morris made a motion to approve the minutes from August. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gomez and was approved with a 4-0-1 vote. Dr. Scholl abstained.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Ad-hoc Committee Update- Sectors are continuing to collect data and Mr. Wicks confirmed they are planning to meet again on September 18, 2018.

Farmers' Market Update- Mrs. Morris confirmed the time for tabling at the Haymaker Farmers' Market on Saturday, September 15, 2018. Mrs. Morris commented they will promote the Kent GEO Tour and continue to collect responses from the public. Mrs. Nelson commented the commission could continue to distribute literature on single use plastic straws and continue to collect signatures from the community. Mrs. Morris confirmed the public awareness information on single use plastic straws sparked good conversation on social media during the farmers' market. The fall 2018 Tree City Bulletin article asked residents for their input and submit responses to City staff. Mrs. Nelson commented the businesses downtown have indicated support for not using plastic straws. Mrs. Morris and Ms. Gomez have confirmed their attendance for the morning session from 9-11am. Mrs. Nelson and Ms. Jackson confirmed their attendance for the afternoon session from 11-1pm. Mr. Wicks confirmed he can bring materials to the farmers' market as well.

Chickens on Residential Lots Update- Mr. Wicks confirmed the October 3, 2018 City Council committee meeting will be the next time the item will be discussed. Mr. Wicks also confirmed October 3, 2018 will be Democracy Day. Mrs. Nelson commented she will follow up with Ms. Susel on the status of this item.

Single Use Plastic Straws- Ms. Gomez asked how the Commission could continue to promote the single use plastic straw public awareness campaign? Mrs. Nelson commented that a presentation to City Council on a recap of items accomplished by the Commission in 2018 could include a reference to the single use plastic straw awareness campaign. In addition, the recap can include other accomplishments such as the film series, tabling at the farmers'

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market, and more. Mrs. Morris asked if the regular City Council meeting on October 17<sup>th</sup> could work? Mr. Wicks confirmed he can check to see if this date is possible. The presentation will be a summary of all activities in 2018.

**Community Outreach Update-**

- a. Kent Environmental Council- Ms. Gomez confirmed KEC sent out articles updating their members on the efforts of the Climate Action Plan Ad-hoc Committee as well as the single use plastic straw public awareness campaign.
- b. KSU Office of Sustainability- Mrs. Morris confirmed she and Mrs. Nelson will meet with Mrs. Knowles and Mrs. Graham this week to finalize logistics for the Kent Green Energy Ohio (GEO) Tour and Clean Transportation Cruise In. Mrs. Nelson confirmed the police station will have an open house during the same time as the GEO Tour on Sept 29<sup>th</sup> and the Kent Safety Ambassadors will be in attendance as well. Mrs. Nelson confirmed the Kent Creativity Festival event organizers held a meeting last Friday and she attended to speak about the cruise in. Mrs. Nelson commented she will contact the individual responsible for the University of Akron electric race car to see if they can attend. Mrs. Nelson also confirmed Portage County Solid Waste District does not want to bring their recycle truck to the event.
- c. Haven of Portage County- No update.
- d. Family & Community Services- Mrs. Morris emailed Mrs. Sandy Halem and has not received a response yet. No update.

Tree City Bulletin- Mr. Wicks confirmed articles for the Tree City Bulletin would be needed by the end of September to be added to the winter 2018 edition. An article could be finalized at the next meeting on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ms. Gomez commented on the possibility of writing an article that focuses on sustainable practices of local businesses. Dr. Scholl was in agreement that this article could be beneficial. Ms. Gomez commented on the possibility of an article that focused on wintertime sustainable practices and reminders? Mr. Wicks commented on the possibility of an article listing sustainable services in Kent similar to Ms. Jackson's previously proposed idea? Mrs. Nelson commented on an article idea that could highlight activities and accomplishments completed by the Commission in 2018 as a year-end wrap up or report. There was a consensus that the year-end wrap up article would be most beneficial. In addition, the articles could include previous responses from residents for the last article. Mr. Wicks confirmed he can ask Ms. Susel if she received any responses from Kent residents in the past month and a half. Ms. Gomez agreed to create a first draft of the article for review at the next meeting on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Mrs. Nelson made a motion to add an item to new business on sustainable energy sources from NOPEC, presented by Charles Ramer. Motion was seconded by Dr. Scholl and approved with a 5-0 vote.

**NEXT MEETING**

October 2, 2018

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Gomez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Nelson and was approved with a 5-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm.