

Sustainability Commission Meeting April 1, 2019

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm by Vice-Chairperson Julie Morris.

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

ABSENT: Nadine Gomez and Andrew Scholl

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

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

Staff: Harrison Wicks, Executive Assistant to the City Manager

Review of Meeting Summary Reports of March 4, 2019:

Mrs. Nelson did not attend the March meeting and so a quorum could not be reached to approve the minutes from March 4, 2019. The minutes will be held as a public record and approved during a future commission meeting.

Public Comment

Mr. George Rose & Mrs. Jane Preston Rose, Portage Park District Foundation, 705 Oakwood Street, Ravenna, OH - Mr. & Mrs. Rose attended the meeting to take photos of the Sustainability Commission members for the upcoming annual Portage County Environmental Conservation Awards Dinner on Saturday, April 27, 2019. The Sustainability Commission will be recognized for their work in environmental education.

OLD BUSINESS

Ad-hoc Committee Update- Mr. Wicks confirmed he had met with Ms. Susel for a conference call with ICLEI staff on the Clearpath software. The next meeting of the Ad-hoc Committee has not been set yet.

Farmers' Market Update- The next tabling event at the market is scheduled for Saturday, April 20th in partnership with Christie Anderson from Kent Social Services. The Commission will be accepting food and clothing donations for Kent Social Services and the Portage County Clothing Center. Mr. Wicks confirmed he can advertise the food drive on City of Kent social media channels as well as during the Environmental Film Series event, and during the KSU Earth Fest. There was a consensus to promote upcoming events including River Day, the Edith Chase Symposium, and the Perils of Plastic Pollution event. Mr. Wicks confirmed he can make copies of food drive flyers for Mrs. Nelson to pick up and disseminate in the community. Mrs. Nelson and Mr. Wicks confirmed they can attend the morning session from 10-11:30am and Mrs. Morris and Ms. Jackson confirmed they can attend the afternoon session from 11:30-1pm.

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Informational Solar Energy Meeting- There was no update. Mr. Wicks confirmed he is still working to organize a group meeting of governmental organizations for later in the year. Mrs. Nelson confirmed she can follow up on her own registration with the Portage County Co-op.

Single Use Plastic Straws- There was a consensus to continue outreach on the public awareness campaign at events and in the community as opportunities arise.

Community Outreach Update-

- a. Kent Environmental Council (KEC)- No update. Mrs. Morris confirmed upcoming events including the Perils of Plastic Pollution event organized by Lynn Vogel and sponsored by the Kent Environmental Council. In addition, Standing Rock Cultural Arts is holding their 13th Annual Who's Your Mama Earth Festival in downtown Kent. KEC is planning to have a booth at the event.
- b. KSU Office of Sustainability- The KSU Earth Fest event will be held on April 10th. In addition, the Green Energy Ohio (GEO) Annual meeting will be held on April 25th. Mrs. Nelson confirmed she can speak to Mrs. Knowles to find out more information on the GEO Annual meeting. The Commission is planning to have a booth at the KSU Earth Fest event. Mrs. Nelson and Mr. Wicks confirmed they can attend the morning session and Dr. Scholl, Mrs. Morris, and Ms. Jackson confirmed they can attend the afternoon session.
- c. Haven of Portage County- Mrs. Morris confirmed the Haven is having a volunteer work day on April 6th on their property to install drywall and other construction materials. Volunteers are needed for fundraising outreach. Mrs. Morris confirmed that on September 12th the Haven is hosting social service organizations to gather in their building and offer services for a one-time, one-stop shop event. More information can be provided at a later date.
- d. Family & Community Services (F&CS)- Mrs. Morris confirmed that April is a hunger challenge month for F&CS and the Mayor's hunger challenge between Kent and Ravenna will occur on Saturday, April 27th. Mayor Jerry Fiala will be at Kent Social Services on April 27th to accept donations.

Tree City Bulletin- The Commission members discussed potential ideas and agreed to write an article in three sections including a section on a list of 10 items residents can do to reduce their carbon footprint, a section on recent awards given to the Commission, City of Kent, Kent State University, and local organizations and business, and a section on upcoming environmental events.

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2019 Environmental Film Series- Mr. Wicks confirmed the final movie in the film series is 'the Human Element' and will be shown on Tuesday, April 16th. Ph.D. candidate Andrews Boateng will be attending as a guest speaker. Mr. Wicks confirmed he will share the information on City of Kent social media channels and pass out flyers.

Phosphorus in the Cuyahoga River- No update. There was a consensus to share the watershed report with Mrs. Rosenberg. There was also a consensus to invite Mrs. Rosenberg to an upcoming Sustainability Commission meeting and listen to a guest speaker on water quality and phosphorous. A guest speaker is to be determined.

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Jackson commented that the Commission should acquire more information or a copy of legislation for the Green New Deal. Ms. Jackson commented the Green New Deal could have a large impact on how the United States addresses Climate Change and could lead to large renewable projects comparable in scope to the Depression era New Deal projects such as the Tennessee Valley Authority. Mr. Wicks confirmed he can try to find more information on the Green New Deal.

Ms. Jackson commented that the new KSU Greater Ohio Living Architecture (GOLA) Center should be contacted to invite and speak at a meeting. A specific date is to be determined. More information is needed.

Mrs. Morris commented on her transition from the Sustainability Commission. Her term is expiring in July 2019 and will not be renewed. There was a consensus that Mrs. Morris has been a key asset of the Commission and will continue to be involved and impactful in parallel endeavors in the community.

NEXT MEETING

May 6, 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Nelson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Morris and was approved with a 3-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.