Sustainability Commission Meeting
February 4, 2019

Meeting called to order at 5:35pm by Chairperson Nadine Gomez.

Roll Call: Julie Morris, Nadine Gomez, Miriam Jackson, and Andrew Scholl (Arrived late)

ABSENT: Judy Nelson

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

Staff: Harrison Wicks, Executive Assistant to the City Manager

Review of Meeting Summary Reports of January 7, 2019:
Mrs. Morris made a motion to approve the minutes from January with select revisions. The motion was seconded by Dr. Scholl and was approved with a 3-0-1 vote. Ms. Gomez abstained.

Public Comment

Christopher Claypool, 124 North Mantua, Kent, OH- Mr. Claypool is a member of the Portage Community Rights Group and presented on the groups opposition to Senate Bill 165, that would allow for the sale of oil and gas industry brine as a commodity. The brine has high concentrations of radioactive elements and can be a long-term hazard. The Portage Community Rights Group is also advocating that Portage County reject the purchase of this brine should the bill become law. Mr. Wicks confirmed he will scan and email the presented flyer to Commission members.

OLD BUSINESS

Ad-hoc Committee Update- Mrs. Morris provided an update. Mrs. Morris commented that Mr. Andrews Boateng presented on a Davey Tree tool used by the City of Kent called TreeKeeper. The City currently uses TreeKeeper for the management of street trees and its application can be expanded to incorporate data from the greenhouse gas inventory. The software can be used to create new layers and show data points spatially on a map. Mr. Wicks commented that City staff will begin taking data collected and find out how much is applicable to be input into the ICLEI ClearPath software. Once this is complete, City staff will meet with ICLEI staff to determine which data estimates will be needed for the inventory. The next Ad-hoc Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled to occur in 4-6 weeks.

Farmers' Market Update- Ms. Gomez commented tabling on January 19th was good but quieter than in the past. There was interest in the backyard chicken information session at the Kent Free Library (KFL) that was held on February 5th. Mrs. Morris commented the Socially Responsible Sweatshop is looking for a new location to continue their work. Ms. Gomez commented on a potential collaboration with a local church? There was a consensus to table again in February to promote the film series and other programs. Mrs. Morris commented on a

potential food drive, however, she has not received a response from Mrs. Christie Anderson with Family & Community Services (F&CS) on their interest in a food drive. Ms. Gomez also mentioned the potential of a clothing drive. There was a consensus to table on February 16th and promote programs including the environmental film series, National Skip the Straw Day on February 22nd, and reusable shirt bags. There was also a consensus to hold a food drive in March and advertise it during the February 16th tabling event. Ms. Gomez will contact market manager Andrew Rome to reserve spots on February 16th and March 16th. Ms. Gomez confirmed availability for 10-11:30am, and Mrs. Morris and Ms. Jackson confirmed availability for 11:30-1pm.

Informational Solar Energy Meeting- Mrs. Morris wrote a summary for this initiative in the Tree City Bulletin. No new information was presented on an upcoming information meeting.

Single Use Plastic Straws- There was a consensus to promote the National Skip the Straw Day on February 22nd at the Haymaker Farmers' Market and continue promoting the campaign with local businesses downtown.

Community Outreach Update-

a. Kent Environmental Council (KEC)- Mrs. Morris confirmed there was no new information at this time.

b. KSU Office of Sustainability- Mrs. Morris spoke with Melanie Knowles and confirmed an upcoming Green Energy Ohio (GEO) meeting at Kent State University (KSU) in April 2019. KSU is receiving an award from GEO. Mrs. Morris confirmed she is waiting to meet with Mrs. Knowles to discuss events.

c. Haven of Portage County- Mrs. Morris attended their board meeting and they are continuing to fundraise for a new facility. Another upcoming event is a pancake breakfast on March 16th.

d. Family & Community Services- Mrs. Morris is waiting to hear back from Mrs. Anderson on a potential food/clothing drive during a tabling event at the Haymaker Farmers' Market. Mrs. Morris commented on recent cold weather and that Kent Social Services (KSS) on South Water Street was open as a warming center in the past, but not anymore due to a lack of use by the Kent homeless population. Mrs. Morris advocated for a strong and clear connection between the environment and food sustainability for at risk populations. Materials such as a brochure or graphic highlighting this connection could be beneficial. Mrs. Morris confirmed she can ask F&CS for more materials to share at the farmers' market. Ms. Gomez confirmed the Commission can also include Habitat of Portage County materials as well.

Tree City Bulletin- Commission members discussed drafts of summary items for the Tree City Bulletin. Items to include in the spring 2019 edition include an update on the Climate Action Plan (CAP), environmental film series, the Portage County solar co-op, and KSU's Recyclemania and Shredmania events. There was a consensus to remove the item on the efforts of local businesses downtown and possibly include it in the summer 2019 Tree City Bulletin article. Dr. Scholl commented on the CAP draft and advocated to expand on what a CAP is and the reason for its creation. Mrs. Morris agreed. Mr. Wicks confirmed the drafts will be updated and sent to the Commission for final changes before the article deadline on February 8th.

2019 Environmental Film Series- Mr. Wicks provided an update and confirmed the movie 'This Changes Everything' was not covered under the KFL's screening license. In lieu of spending a cost prohibitive amount for a one-time screening license, there was a consensus to select another movie that is covered under the library's license agreement. The movie that was recommended is called 'The Human Element.' The library agreed to procure a copy of 'The Human Element' to be shown on April 16th. Mr. Wicks confirmed he can update the flyer for the film series and provide it to the Commission members for distribution once finalized.

Phosphorus in the Cuyahoga River- Mrs. Morris provided a Watershed Action Plan for the Cuyahoga River that was developed by the Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning and Development organization (NEFCO) in 2012. The plan provided phosphorus data that could be useful to the Commission's work on understanding phosphorus levels in the Kent portion of the Cuyahoga River. Mr. Wicks confirmed he can look into this plan for information that could be useful.

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Scholl commented on an upcoming tree give away event hosted by the Kent Shade Tree Commission. This event was previously hosted during the Earth Day Who's Your Mama festival. For this year, the Shade Tree Commission would like to give away trees at the Haymakers Farmers' Market for up to six weekends. Dr. Scholl commented on a potential collaboration at the market between the Sustainability and Shade Tree Commissions. There was a consensus that organizing to attend the farmers' market together could be beneficial and more discussion and organization can be made between the two Commissions. Mr. Wicks will work with Brad McKay on potential dates.

NEXT MEETING

March 4, 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Gomez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jackson and was approved with a 4-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm.