

Sustainability Commission Meeting February 6, 2017

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

Roll Call: Rick Hawksley, Nadine Gomez, Ann Gilmore, and Julie Morris.

Mr. Hawksley made a motion to excuse Mrs. Nelson. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Gilmore and was approved with a 4-0 vote.

Staff: Suzanne Stemnock, Executive Assistant to the City Manager

Review of Meeting Summary Reports of January 9, 2017:

Mrs. Gilmore made a motion to approve the summary reports from January. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gomez and was approved with a 4-0 vote.

Public Comment

None

OTHER BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Stemnock explained that the temporary street crossing signs at the Haymaker Farmers' Market were discussed at the Traffic, Engineering, and Safety Committee. She explained that the issue with placing a sign at the intersection is that pedestrians are not crossing at any intersection, they are crossing in the middle of two intersections. She explained that a citywide study is planned for intersections and possible improvements at that intersection could be made in the future. At that time more pedestrian friendly additions could be made. Mrs. Stemnock also shared that the Traffic, Engineering, and Safety Committee agreed that the best option in the meantime is for the Farmers' Market to be allowed to place their flag signs in the right-of-way to draw attention that the Market is taking place. The Commission understood the issues with that intersection and hope the Market will increase their signage to make drivers more aware of the increased pedestrian traffic.

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the Council meeting where they presented the information on plastic bags. Mrs. Gilmore would like to continue with the bag sharing program, but she is concerned she needs help sewing the bags. Ms. Gomez asked the Commission if they are interested in setting goals for plastic bags. They agreed this was a good idea to keep on track. Various options for creating the bag share bags were discussed. They would like to have the bags created and ready for the June Haymaker Farmers' Market if possible. The Commission discussed how to have tags made for the bags. They agreed that the biodegradable bags are not a good option. The next goal would be to educate business owners to reduce the amount of plastic bags used. The group hopes to have this complete by August. The Commission would like to have another update ready for Council around December.

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Finally, the Commission briefly discussed the current utica well reports and a map of injection wells in Ohio. The Commission confirmed that there had been no changes in Portage County since their last meeting. The Commission agreed there are still no real concerns at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

The Commission agreed to do the “shirt bag” workshop at the Haymaker Farmers’ Market on February 25th. They discussed that each member could bring old shirts and scissors. They will also work on having plastic bag and reusable bag educational information available.

Next, Mrs. Gilmore notified the Commission that she met with Heather Malarcik from Main Street Kent and they discussed a garden spot in the triangle where Gougler Avenue and Mantua Street come together for a possible pollinator garden. Main Street Kent offered to donate flowers for the spot as well. Mrs. Stemnock will confirm the triangle garden spot is able to be planted as a pollinator garden. It was agreed that information on pollinator gardens could be given out at the March Haymaker Farmers’ Market.

Ms. Gomez notified the Commission that the Shade Tree Commission will be at the Earth Day Festival handing out free seedling trees. Mrs. Stemnock let the Commission know that they are able to share the booth with the Shade Tree Commission at the Earth Day Festival. She further explained that this would be a good opportunity to advertise for the rain barrel workshop. Then she explained that the rain barrel workshop may be able to happen in May. The barrels will need to be cleaned once the weather is better and parts need to be obtained. Mrs. Stemnock will keep them updated on the status of the barrels and parts. If they attend and share the booth at the Earth Day Festival they could give information on various items like the rain barrels, pollinator gardens, and more.

NEXT MEETING

March 6, 2017

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Gilmore 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 6:48pm.