

Sustainability Commission Meeting March 6, 2017

Meeting called to order at 5:40pm by Rick Hawksley

Roll Call: Rick Hawksley, Judy Nelson, and Julie Morris.

ABSENT: Nadine Gomez and Ann Gilmore

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

Staff: Suzanne Stemnock, Executive Assistant to the City Manager

Review of Meeting Summary Reports of February 6, 2017:

No motion was made to approve the February summary since Mrs. Nelson was not in attendance at this meeting, leaving less than a majority to vote for approval.

Public Comment

MaryJayne Stone, 133 Brady Street: Ms. Stone explained she is a member of the Environmental Committee of the Indivisible North East Ohio organization and would like to notify the Commission about the organization and any support they can provide. The group would like to collaborate and provide assistance on environmental projects where possible.

Mr. Hawksley provided Ms. Stone with a background about the members and the projects the Commission has been working on. The group discussed the survey of downtown business recycling. Mrs. Nelson confirmed she has a meeting with Portage County Recycling on March 10th to discuss commercial recycling.

OLD BUSINESS

The Commission agreed to defer the discussion of the bag share program until the next meeting when Mrs. Gilmore is in attendance. Mrs. Stemnock said she would remind Mrs. Gilmore about getting dates together to work on bags. The Commission also provided Ms. Stone with information they have found on plastic bags and the bag share program.

Next, the Commission discussed the Earth Day festival. The Commission is planning on sharing the booth at the festival with the Shade Tree Commission. Mrs. Morris has also talked to Kent State about having a booth at the film event on campus. She will get more information on the specifics of the film portion of the Earth Day events and share that with the Commission. Members will work on information to hand out at the event.

The Commission agreed that if Mrs. Gilmore would like to have the pollinator garden information available during March at the FarmersöMarket that would be fine or they could combine the information with seed starting for the April FarmersöMarket.

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Mrs. Stemnock shared the suggested possible locations for pollinator gardens near the Hike and Bike Trail. She also shared that she had given this information to Mrs. Gilmore to possibly visit these locations if she was further interested. The Commission agreed to revisit this item at a future meeting.

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 defer seed starting until a future meeting.

Creating a list of possible articles for future Tree City Bulletins was deferred until the next meeting. However, Mr. Hawksley will work on an article on transportation for the Summer article of the Tree City Bulletin.

Mrs. Morris shared that she has been interested in starting a website for the Commission that could be used by other environmental groups and be used to start a community database. She explained she had looked into what it would take to get it started. Mrs. Stemnock explained that the City will be creating a new City website and the Commission could have a better presence on that site than the current site. She explained the limitations of the Commission trying to work on a separate site including oversight and financial issues.

NEXT MEETING

April 3, 2017

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Morris 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 6:43pm.