

Sustainability Commission Meeting April 3, 2017

Meeting called to order at 5:44 pm by Chairperson Nadine Gomez

Roll Call: Judy Nelson, Julie Morris, Nadine Gomez and Ann Gilmore.

ABSENT: Rick Hawksley

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

Staff: Suzanne Stemnock, Executive Assistant to the City Manager

Review of Meeting Summary Reports of February 6, 2017 and March 6, 2017:

Mrs. Morris made a motion to approve the summary reports from February. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gilmore and was approved with a 3-0-1 vote, with Mrs. Nelson abstaining.

No motion was made to approve the March report since Ms. Gomez and Mrs. Gilmore were not in attendance at this meeting, leaving less than a majority to vote for approval.

Public Comment

None

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Gilmore notified the Commission that there has not been much change with the bag share program. She is still looking into finding the right tags for the bags. She furthered to say she would still like to have a meet to bring people together to work on making more bags. She will provide an update at the next meeting.

Mrs. Morris did not have an update to provide on attendance the Commission's attendance at the Kent State University Earth Day Film Festival. The Commission agreed they would not attend the Farmers' Market in April and instead provide the seed starting information at the Earth Day Festival in downtown Kent. They discussed possible options for information to provide to the public. They also decided they could keep a list of people who are interested in the rain barrel workshop. They discussed providing shirt bag directions and demonstrations as well.

Mrs. Gilmore let the Commission know she met with the City Engineer, Jim Bowling, about possible pollinator garden locations. She notified the Commission that they chose a location near the Crain Avenue Bridge on State Route 43. Mrs. Gilmore is waiting to hear back from Mr. Bowling to confirm she can proceed with planting in that space.

The Commission agreed to not attend the Farmers' Market in April since they will be attending the Earth Day Festival this month.

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Mrs. Nelson explained that she had visited the Portage County Recycling Center and met with the Director, Bill Steiner. She shared some of the information she gained about the business. Mrs. Nelson explained that the Director told her some of the businesses in Kent do currently use their service, but they are able to contract with other recycling companies as well. She is interested in talking to some of the businesses using Portage County to see what works for them. Mrs. Nelson said some of the main concerns about downtown recycling they discussed includes space, interest, and contamination. Mrs. Morris said she would add this to her list to discuss with Kent State University Sustainability as well.

Mrs. Morris shared some information she gained from the last Environmental Council meeting about a research site called earthworksaction.org. This site looks at the impacts of injection wells on an area. Mrs. Morris thinks this could be helpful information to look at in the future as well. 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 will work on gathering interest for the rain barrel workshop while staff will look into the status of the supplies for the workshop.

It was decided that Mr. Hawksley should still write the Summer article for the Tree City Bulletin on transportation. It was agreed that the Commission would discuss article topics at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING

May 1, 2017

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Gilmore made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Nelson and was approved by a 4-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:44pm.