

**Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee Meeting
February 20, 2018 5:30 PM
First Floor Conference Room, City Hall
1100 Frederick, St. Joseph, Missouri**

Diane Waddell, Chair, called the **meeting to order**.

Roll call was in the form of introductions. Present were Janet Storts, Carol Fuson, Dr. Elizabeth Sawin, Dr. Csengele Barta, LuAnn Cadden, and Diane Waddell. Also present was Martha Clark, I.S.A. Certified Arborist, (International Society of Arboriculture) who serves as consultant to the committee. Staff member present was Nic Hutchison, City Planner, who serves as City Staff representative to the committee. We also welcomed Jeff Atkins, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director. Diane recognized guests including Anita Jolly, Caring Communities Project Director with the Saint Joseph Youth Alliance, who was invited to serve as a partner for our tree planting project.

Minutes of January 23, 2019 meeting were acknowledged.

The statement of purpose in recognition that we are a part of the Mayor's Climate Network was noted. This committee comes from a Resolution which states: *Resolved, That the City of Saint Joseph continue to expand on innovative environmental programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions*

Recent and current business

Nic shared a written and verbal report on the Feb. 12 **Mayors' Climate Network Conference Call**. The next call is March 12.

The Tree Tagging project was reviewed. We are hoping to receive a TRIM (Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance) Grant through MO Conservation, however, information for the grant is not ready as yet. Nevertheless, the grant money is not paid to before the project, but as reimbursement. Anita Jolly stated that there may be a possibility of a loan through Youth Alliance. The previous tree tagging project was discussed. At that time, 44 trees were measured and their value was determined according to a formula. The tags stated the species and yearly benefit "including storm-water, utilities, property value and air quality," all represented as a yearly dollar value. Not all of the tags were available for re-collection, but Martha has most of them. We will need to determine how many more trees we want to tag, and determine how to pay for the extra tags. Martha will send more information. Meanwhile, Jeff stated that we could tag the same trees, most of which are on the parkway system, and tag new trees from the parkway system as well.

Dr Barta, LuAnn, Jan and Diane reported on a very successful **Super Science Saturday Tree Education event at MWSU on January 26, 2019**. Dr. Barta reported that 1,888 youngsters came to the event, although not all came to our exhibit. We will plan to repeat our presence next year and work on promotion of this committee and it's work, as well as be prepared for more participants. Thanks to volunteers from the committee and family members who volunteered. Thanks to Martha Clark for loaning her tree costume.

The group agreed to have an **indoor booth at the Arbor Day Celebration at the MO Conservation office on the MWSU campus on April 13, from 10 to noon**. Volunteers from

our committee would want to arrive at 9:30. We would like to share information about our tree tagging program and share the importance of trees. Diane will communicate with Lonnie Messbarger to follow up.

Continuing or possible new goals for this committee

We would like to think of an EARTH DAY PROJECT. There was some interest in a neighborhood clean-up project. Meanwhile, we will continue to work on determining a project.

In the past we have discussed the possibility of a **campaign to decrease Single Use plastics** in the city. Diane suggested a speaker from Kansas City, Kathleen Corbin, on this, and the group agreed.

Jeff Atkins, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, tag teamed with Martha on discussing tree planting. Jeff stated that Parks and Rec would work with us on planting trees. They would provide the space/land for the tree, dig the hold and bring water for planting. Overall, we agreed to continue to work on a tree planting plan to include partners to work with us who will 'adopt' the trees.

We agreed to start with a couple pilot projects. We will work with Parks and Rec to plant about 6 trees in each of two of the pocket parks where Parks and Rec will be adding some new play equipment. Possible pockets parks include the following:

Seitz Park at Esther Street and Elijah Street, east of Bluff Woods

Rest Square Park/Vories Park one block north of 36 Hwy on 22nd (east side of 22nd)

Park by Deer Park on Pickett

College Hill Park at 12th and Henry

Carol, LuAnn and Shelley White, a community member, will visit the sites so we can narrow the selection to two parks.

As per discussion, we would like to plant about 6 trees at each site. Martha and Jeff would choose which native species of trees would be most appropriate, and Martha will order these from Forest ReLeaf out of St. Louis. Parks and Rec will be going to pick up other trees, but should have enough space for our one dozen trees.

From there, Anita Jolly stated that youth, through Youth Alliance, could 'adopt' the trees and keep them watered and monitored. We would need to do water and monitor most carefully for the first year. We will continue to follow up on those plans.

We will additionally plan to plant more trees in the fall. Since last summer was so hot, it was a difficult summer for new tree survival.

Next meeting:

Wednesday, March 20, 5 PM. Georganne Bowman, Stormwater Coordinator, City of St. Joseph, will present on the City's Stormwater Management Plan.

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Diane Waddell.