

CITY CLERK
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**SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, May 15, 2019 5:00 P.M.
First Floor Meeting Room, City Hall
1100 Frederick Avenue
St. Joseph, Missouri

Members Present: Diane Waddell, chair
LuAnn Cadden
Elizabeth Sawin
Janet Storts
Carol Fuson
Sara Markt

Members Absent: Csengele Barta
Sean DeWeese
Michael Doolan
Bev Walley

Staff Present: Nic Hutchison, City Planner

Guests: Martha Clark - consultant
Shelly White
Fred Sawin
Ken Reeder

WORK SESSION:

Speaker Kathleen Corbin spoke on "Planet or Plastic," showing the abundance of plastics affecting our flora and wildlife and ways to eliminate usage of plastic, especially of the single-use variety.

REGULAR MEETING:

Diane Waddell called the meeting to order and roll was called by way of introductions, with recognition of staff and guests as noted above. The minutes for the April 17, 2019 meeting were recognized.

Diane noted the **Statement of Purpose** in recognition of the fact that we are a part of the Mayor's Climate Network. 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:

A recap was given of April 22 Earth Day and recognition by the City Council by way of proclamation; the report was that it went well.

Nic was unable to make it to the most recent Mayor's Climate Network Conference Call. He did report that there was followup with the City Council that they planned to coordinate with our committee as part of the strategic plan for this Council. Bruce Woody was acknowledged as one to initiate that process.

No current report by John Holland and the Tree Board.

For coordination with Mosaic and MO Conservation, Shawn had passed along that they were testing soils to find the best places to plant trees and would keep the committee posted. There was discussion of making an event for the tree planting when it occurs.

Regarding tree tags, they could not be placed when scheduled due to the abundance of rain. Diane shared pictures of tags used in Kansas City. It was suggested to tag trees along the Parkway where Parties on the Parkway was held to generate interest.

The combined effort to clean up Mt. Mora road occurred on April 20 and Shelly White reported that it was cleaned and looked much better.

For Pocket Parks and tree planting, Martha reported that Seitz Park was ready to go and they just needed to pick a date; the playground equipment had been laid out and they need to know where to place the trees. At Vorhees Park, it's still possible to place the trees but there is limited space. As for Fall planting and ordering, the trees may be planted from the end of September until the ground freezes and Martha said she would check as to the best time to order additional trees.

SEAC Goals

The committee is continuing to work on meeting their goals.

For the goal of planting and nurturing trees, Dr. Sawin and Shelly White attended a TRIM Grant workshop in Columbia to learn about possible grant funding to plant trees. As part of a major TRIM grant, the grantors want to see applicants do an inventory of the current canopy of the trees in the area, look at what and prioritize needs, and then train more arborists and focus on education. It was suggested to possibly have EEJ apply with their non-profit status rather than this committee that's tied to the city government. The grant was for up to \$25,000 but was due June 7; Shelly felt there was still time to apply and was working on it.

To help meet other goals, it was suggested to divide into smaller sub-groups:

Decrease Single-Use Plastics (to suggest reasonable goals to City Council) – Carol, Luann, Diane, Sara
Green Business Network/Affiliates (to find businesses that qualify and /or are willing) – Jan, Shelley

Next Meetings

Wednesday, July 17, 5 p.m.

Work Session - Lauren Manning and/or Sara Markt on sustainability in the urban environment

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,
Sara Markt