

**Minutes**  
**Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee (SEAC)**  
**St. Joseph, MO**  
**September 22, 2021 3:30 PM**

This was a Zoom meeting set up through the City of St. Joseph.  
Zoom connection was available in First Floor conference room, City Hall

**Welcome** and **Call to order** was shared by Diane Waddell, moderator, with thanks to Dr. Kim Schutte, staff liaison, for setting up the Zoom call.

August **Minutes** were acknowledged.

**Roll call** was by check-in. Members present were Dr. Elizabeth Sawin, Dr. Dawn Drake, Jan Storts, Sara Markt, and Diane Waddell. Dr. Kim Schutte, Historic Preservation Planner and Colleen Armstrong, Stormwater Quality Coordinator, were City Staff represented.

**Statement of purpose in recognition 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*

**Goals:** Rethink, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Plant and nurture trees and native plants

Decrease single-use plastics

Encourage and support businesses which model environmental sustainability

Decrease greenhouse gas emissions

Seek to reduce pollution of our water resources

Promote sustainable stewardship of historic buildings including adaptive reuse

It was agreed by consensus to change the following two goals by combining them.

From: (1) Seek to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy use and

(2) Decrease greenhouse gas emissions

To: Encourage the City of St. Joseph and all residences, businesses and other organizations to improve energy efficiency to decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

**Old Business:**

Green Businesses — The Subcommittee includes LuAnn Cadden, Sara Markt, Jan Storts, and Diane Waddell. The group will Zoom on Sept. 30 to review their goals.

Tree Projects, Prairie Restoration and Native Plantings

- A. Prairie Restoration — Dr. Drake reported that Dr. Mark Mills and Jeff Powelson continue to work actively on the MWSU prairie dedicated to Dr. John Rushin.
- B. Krug Park Native Plantings — The plantings are looking excellent. Ecumenical Eco-Justice recently met at the site of the plantings with LuAnn Cadden and Mary Jo Harris sharing information about the native plants.

C.. Native Planting Team (Plant Native St. Joe!) The team met at the Convention and Visitors Bureau on Sept. 20 with the next meeting on October 18. Plantings of native trees and plants are being planned for four schools in the St. Joseph School District. Native tree replacement is being planned through a proposed TRIM grant to the Felix Street Square area. Jeff Powelson is helping coordinate planting and funding. Members/stakeholders are listed on addendum 1.

Goals: 1. Encourage native plantings in businesses, schools, public areas such as parks, parkway, and home landscapes

2. Educate residents of the many benefits of native plants and trees

a. Develop a script related to the benefits to share with groups, etc.

b. Develop a brochure/information to share on social media

c. Develop Markers to be used for education and identification (Pollinator Restoration, etc.)

3. Work toward making St. Joseph a destination for visitors for Native Plantings

4. Include native plants, shrubs, trees and pollinator plants

#### Ongoing City Partnership Reports

A. Historic Preservation — Dr. Kim Schutte: Reimagining Heritage Neighborhoods — no report

B. Water Protection — Stormwater subcommittee, Colleen Armstrong reported that she is planning a Work day planting session on Sept 28 at 5:30 at the Sewer Line Maintenance Building, 2221 S. 4th. Her team has 764 plants to be planted.

#### Mayors for Clean Energy (Ready for 100 Campaign): GEO Team (Green Energy Opportunity Team)

1. A sub-task force of GEO, the Resolution Committee, will continue to represent GEO and present the Resolution at a Work Session on October 18, scheduled through Paula Heyde. See Addendum II for stakeholders and members of the Resolution Committee.

2. A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING PRACTICES BY THE CITY OF ST. JOSEPH AND BY ALL RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES, AND OTHER ORGANIZATION TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS.

#### **Social Media/Education**

##### Monthly focus for Facebook/City Highlights: 2021 Facebook monthly themes:

Feb Clean Energy Focus (Dr. Drake)

March Native Plants (LuAnn)

April Earth Day (Green Small Business Awards with #GreenerStJoe)

Balanced approaches to agriculture and energy (Jeff Powelson)

May Historic Preservation (Dr. Schutte)

June Continued historic preservation (Landmark Commission)

July Sustainable urban planning/architecture (Sara Markt)

August Trees (Dr. Barta)

September Pollinators (Jeff Powelson)

October Sustainable energy technologies (Dr. Drake)

November Water Conservation (Katie Bruegge)

December

### **New Business and Public Comment**

**Next meeting: Oct. 27, 3:30 PM per Zoom**

**Minutes submitted by Diane Waddell**

### **Addendum 1**

#### **Members, stakeholders of Plant Native Team**

##### **City of St Joseph (staff and departments)**

Property Maintenance Manager Juston Carr

Parks and Rec Chuck Kempf

Historic Preservation Planner Dr. Kim Schutte

Neighborhood Services Coordinator Carol Flury

Water Protection Colleen Armstrong

##### Associations

Downtown Community Improvement Christy George

Main Street Committee (Beautification) Todd Coffman

Main Street Committee (Beautification) Max Guenther

Convention and Visitors Bureau Marci Bennett

Downtown Main Street St. Joe Trevor Tutt  
Education

SJSD Dr. Gabe Edgar and Mickey Gill  
St. Joseph Museums

Wyeth Tootle Sara Wilson Corinda Stallbaumer

Remington Nature Center Sarah Elder  
Organizations

Master Gardeners Anne Manns  
Ecumenical Eco-Justice Shelley White  
Mary Jo Harris

Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee LuAnn Cadden  
Diane Waddell

MDC Jeff Powelson (also representing SEAC and MWSU)

## **Addendum II**

### **Members /Stakeholders GEO Team (Starred are members of Task force on the Resolution)**

Carol Barksdale NAACP, Member

\*Whitney Lanning Community Action Partnership, Executive Director

Kendra Bundy St. Joseph Public Health Department, Assistant Director

Bryan Adkins MWSU, Director, Physical Plant

Kendra Lau, PhD SJSD, Director, School Improvement

\*Andrea Cole Boehringer Ingelheim, Senior Specialist in Quality

Representative Mosaic Life Care

Cole McMillan Triumph, Communications Manager

Representative MWSU Biology Honors Society, Tri Beta

Shane Thompson Teamsters, Secretary/Treasurer, Business Agent

\*Dawn Drake, PhD MWSU, Associate Professor; Member of SEAC

Tama Wagner St. Joseph Community Foundation, Director

Kyle Beauchamp Environmental Advocate, Member of SEAC, Co- Moderator GEO

\*Diane Waddell Environmental Advocate, Member of SEAC

**Elected Officials, City Staff Representatives and other Supporters**

Mayor Bill McMurray Climate Mayor

Brenda Blessing City Council Representative

Kim Schutte, PhD Historic Preservation Consultant

Brady McKinley Assistant Director, Public Works

Elizabeth Sawin, PhD Environmental Advocate, Member of SEAC

Jeff Powelson Private Land Conservationist, Missouri Department of Conservation

**Advisory Consultants**

Peter Hinkle Team Leader, Energy and Sustainability Services, Schneider Electric

Jabbar Wesley Government Affairs, Spire

Shaylyn Dean Manager, Energy Efficiently Program, Spire

RT Turner Community Affairs Manager, Evergy

Mr. Jody L. Carlson, Senior Manager Northwest Missouri Operations, Missouri American Water

RT Turner Evergy, Community Affairs Manager,

Dan Hegeman Evergy, District Community Affairs Manager (North District)

Brett Sharp Evergy, Business Development/Energy Savings Program

Katie Panek Evergy, Sr. Product Manager, Renewables

Kevin Brannan Evergy, Sr. Product Manager, Renewables