

Minutes  
Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee of St. Joseph  
April 28, 3:30 PM

The Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee of St. Joseph met per Zoom on April 28, 3:30 PM. The Zoom was through the City of St. Joseph, with Patrick Ruiz managing the invitations. Members on the call were Jan Storts, LuAnn Cadden, Dr. Dawn Drake, Leah Swindler (with Water Protection,) Patrick Ruiz (Interim City Planner,) Martha Clark (ISA-Certified Arborist and consultant,) and Diane Waddell (moderator.) Also on the call was Shelley White, community member.

The minutes of the March meeting were accepted.

**Old business**

**EARTH DAY and EARTH MONTH**

Diane reviewed how SEAC had been involved in the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, with some association with the Mayor's Climate Network. Mayor McMurray read a proclamation of this event as well as SEAC's announcement about the Sustainable Alliance of St. Joe at the City Council meeting prior to Earth Day. A email announcement about the Sustainable Alliance had been sent to Council representatives prior to the meeting, sent through Tina Cotton, Mayor McMurray's assistant. Additionally, an announcement about Earth Day and SEAC had been sent to Mary Robertson for City Highlights.

Diane thanked members who have been sharing information on Facebook about environmental education and nature.

**SUSTAINABLE ALLIANCE OF ST. JOE**

Diane has communicated with Dr. Jennifer Jackson, Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication and Journalism regarding how the Strategic Communication Class would be working with SEAC in developing the Sustainable Alliance and creating awards in the fall of 2020 and spring of 2021. Until then, it may be best to wait to proceed so we keep all the information more uniform, although we can certainly continue to take note of potential members.

**TREE PLANTING**

Martha agreed that fall 2020 would be the best time to plant trees. Forest ReLeaf is currently closed due to COVID-19. She would be willing to pick up trees in St. Louis in the fall from Forest ReLeaf. Diane noted that the Tree Board would like to plant a tree in each of the major neighborhoods with neighborhood representatives/groups, which would be about 12. We would need about 12 or more additionally for our pocket parks, which now have the playground equipment installed.

**MONTHLY FOCUS**

May - Blanding's Turtles was the choice for May. Dawn will interview Dr. Mark Mills about the turtles.

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CITY CLERK

June - To celebrate National Pollinator Week, we would like to highlight the work of Harris-Kemper Neighborhood and their pollinator garden.

July — In alliance with Water Conservation month, we would like to focus on the Corby Wetland Project and rain garden to raise awareness about the area.

LuAnn will work with Leah about getting information on Facebook. Katie Bruegge with Water Protection works with this project as well.

August - We would like to highlight education. It would be good to remind businesses and educational facilities that they can save money by being efficient and environmentally sustainable. However, since we do not know what MWSU status will be related to Western Warm-up, we are interested in highlighting the work in collaboration with MO Conservation, of the 36 acres area which is being developed into a natural meadow.

## RECYCLING

Martha has communicated with Jennifer Millbourne regarding her and her husband, Robert Milbourne's interest in purchasing a plastics recycling plant. They are still working on this and have applied for a couple grants in the hopes of purchasing it. We will follow up next month as well.

## **Next meeting**

We agreed that the next meeting would also be a Zoom call. We will meet at 3:30 on Wednesday, May 20.

Submitted by Diane Waddell