

Minutes
Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee (SEAC)
St. Joseph, MO
August 19, 2020. 3:30 PM

2020 SEP -8 AM 9:56

This was Zoom meeting set up through City of St. Joseph

Diane welcomed committee members, staff, and guests and called the meeting to order.

Roll call was by check-in. Members present were LuAnn Cadden, Dawn Drake, Jan Storts, Betty Sawin, and Diane Waddell. City staff and consultants present were Katie Bruegge (Stormwater Quality Coordinator, Water Protection,) Martha Clark (ISA-Certified Arborist and consultant,) and Dr. Kim Schutte, (Historic Preservation Consultant), Scott DesPlanques (Historic Preservation Planner) and Carol Flury, Neighborhood Services Coordinator. Community members present were Shelley White and Franklin Voorhes.

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
 - Decrease single-use plastics
 - Decrease greenhouse gas emissions

Old Business:

Diane Waddell and Jan Storts reviewed the proposed **Sustainable Alliance of St. Joe.** (The Sustainable Alliance of St. Joe [would be] a group of vetted organizations, businesses, and educational facilities in St. Joseph which models, encourages, and supports sustainable environmental practices.)

- A. Planning will be with coordination through MWSU Strategic Communication class beginning the fall semester of 2020 through spring 2021
- B. Input from Council representatives and Chamber is encouraged
- C. LuAnn Cadden, Jan Storts and Diane Waddell will continue to meet with Dr. Jennifer Jackson and her class. The SEAC team will also meet with Dr. Jackson and some members of Strategic Communication per Zoom at the SEAC meetings throughout the next two semesters.

Martha Clark reported on proposed **tree planting.** She has ordered basically one tree for each pocket park. SPIRE, the gas company, has provided money through a grant for transport of the trees from St. Louis to KC. Martha will help follow up on picking up the trees from KC and then suggest a planting date. Groups which could help could include MWSU biology groups. Dawn Drake said these could include the Biology Honors group, the Wildlife Society and the Wildlife Club. Franklin Voorhes could also help plant, as he has had vast experience in planting trees. The trees will be in 3 gallon containers. Martha has ordered shrubs for Harris-Kemper, in cooperation with Neighborhood Association and Carol Flury.

LuAnn Cadden reported that she, Leah Swindler and Mary Jo Harris continued their planned work on their **perennial planting at the "Circus" area at Krug Park** as discussed with Parks Director Chuck Kempf. They will have spring, summer and fall flowers, but most recently have prepared the ground with compost, then placing straw and cardboard. Shelley White volunteered some yarrow.

Carol Flury reported upon Diane's request, about her **work in neighborhoods to decrease blight.** This is a difficult, ongoing task in neighborhoods where property inspectors have been at work to encourage clean-up of the neighborhoods. Carol has been working out establish positive relationships with residents and encouraging clean-up of neighborhoods. She has been working with Community Action Partnership and Mark Dobbs of Northwest Health Services.

Katie Bruegge shared a request for committee members and other interested persons to be a part of a **Stormwater subcommittee** which would be for one year, and meet monthly. Additionally, there would be opportunities for physical work with green infrastructures such as rain gardens and bio-retention cells. Examples of these projects include the Corby Wetland area, Lilac Hill rain garden and the south area of the Jules/Faraon Fire Station. Persons interested include LuAnn Cadden, Dawn Drake, Franklin Voorhes, and Shelley White.

Kim Schutte reported about the ongoing **work of the Land Bank and the Historic Preservation Office** in preservation planning.

Scott DesPlanques reported that his **Historic Preservation Planning** office is looking at new projects, particularly one where a contract awardee for a building demolition does not have first rights at the historic features in a building they are going to demolish.

New and Ongoing Business

Betty Sawin share a website about a Xerxes program on saving bumblebees.

Our **Monthly focus for Facebook/City Highlights** were reviewed.

1. August - We will Spotlight decreasing overuse of products which require recycling especially decreasing plastic waste.
2. September - We are looking at promoting how to calculate and decrease our carbon footprint. Dr. Drake will prepare a short presentation for SEAC Facebook page.

Dr. Drake has the following suggestion to calculate carbon footprint:

<https://www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator/>

(which her students use)

She notes this video about American University being carbon neutral:

<https://youtu.be/LyryxAyyKDM>

Also note this website from the Office of Sustainability Univ of FA on carbon neutrality:

<https://sustainable.ufl.edu/campus-initiatives/neutral-uf-coalition/>

One additional carbon footprint calculator is CoolClimate.org

3. October - We will focus on International Day of Climate Action.
4. November - Recycling tips (to celebrate America Recycles Day)

Next meeting — September 16, 3:30 PM, by Zoom