

Minutes
Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee (SEAC)
St. Joseph, MO
November 18, 2020. 3:00 PM

This was Zoom meeting set up through City of St. Joseph by Dr. Kim Schutte

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

Roll call was by check-in. Members present were LuAnn Cadden, Dr. Dawn Drake, Jan Storts, Dr. Elizabeth (Betty) Sawin, Sean DeWeese, Sara Markt and Diane Waddell. City staff and consultants present were Mayor Bill McMurray, Katie Bruegge (Interim Technical Services Manager/Stormwater Quality Coordinator, Water Protection,) Colleen Armstrong (Assistant Environmental Services Supervisor, Water Protection) and Dr. Kim Schutte (Historic Preservation Consultant.) The community member was Shelley White. Guests were Marissa Frazier and Billy Davies, staff of the MO Chapter of the Sierra Club, and Jim R. Turner, past Chair of the MO Chapter of the Sierra Club.

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

Special Program and Proposal:

Upon the suggestion of Betty Sawin, SEAC had invited Mayor McMurray to sign the Pledge of Missouri Mayors for Clean Energy, sponsored by the MO Sierra Club. Mayor McMurray signed this, and today we are meeting to discuss moving forward in the area of clean energy as a city. Billy, Marisa and Jim shared information about how St. Joseph could put forward a resolution for use of renewable energy, with the goals of 100% Clean Energy (at some future date.) The presenters shared that St. Louis is looking toward 100% wind and solar by 2035 and Kansas City MO is looking toward carbon neutrality by 2040 through their climate resilience plan. Columbia and Springfield are also working on various forms of a plan with Springfield looking more at building codes at this time. Currently MO burns 74% coal energy.

The Advisory Team agreed to move forward towards studying the benefits of this idea and working toward some means of suggesting implementation. We decided on the following:

- a. Billy will send copies of the resolution from St. Louis and KC for Mayor Bill and the Advisory team to review.
- b. We would want to come up with a team to do research, prepare a resolution, and work toward implementation. This team of major stakeholders could include
 1. Public Works representative
 2. Evergy Representative
 3. Input from the Public Service Commission
 4. Members of SEAC
 5. Of course, the City Manager and Council at some level
 6. Others as determined.
- c. Invite Sierra Club staff/representatives back on the call in January after the team has a chance to review resolutions and plans from other cities as listed.

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CITY CLERK

Old Business:

Diane remarked on 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 continues 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, Jan and Diane will continue to meet with Dr. Jennifer Jackson and her class. This semester is almost over, but they will continue after the spring semester resumes.

Dawn noted that the **MWSU continues its prairie restoration** area east of the campus which was dedicated and named after Dr. John Rushin on Oct. 31. There will be test plots in the spring and also be a parking area. They are working on extracting the invasive species and mapping the area.

Sean continues to help coordinate the **prairie restoration** just north of **Mosaic** Life Care, where prairie grass seed was planted.

Katie Bruegge continues to work with the **subcommittee on Stormwater Quality**. She will be the speaker for Ecumenical Eco-Justice meeting on Nov. 19 and members of SEAC are encouraged to attend this Zoom meeting.

Jan, LuAnn, Dawn and Katie consistently update the SEAC Facebook page. Themes are as follows:

- November - Recycling tips and the importance of recycling
- December - We will have a sustainable holiday theme, and an 'Environmental' New Years' Resolution, and Shop Local themes.

Next meeting — December 16, 3:00 PM, by Zoom. (Note we are changing to 3 PM for consistency.)

Submitted by Diane Waddell