

Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee Minutes

Nov 20, 2019

**5:00 PM Work Session, 5:30 Meeting
First Floor Conference Room, City Hall
1100 Frederick, St. Joseph, Missouri**

CITY CLERK

2019 NOV 25 PM 3: 28

Work Session: Report of Dubuque, Growing Sustainable Communities Conference - (Oct 24-25, 2019)

Diane presented a PowerPoint and program regarding the conference which she attended.

Regular Scheduled Meeting Call to Order

Introductions of committee members was considered Roll Call. Members present were Dr. Dawn Drake, Dr. Csengele Barta, Dr. Elizabeth Sawin, Janet Storts, LuAnn Cadden, and Diane Waddell. Also present was Martha Clark, Certified Arborist for the City of St. Joseph.

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

Reports, conference calls, meetings, coordination with advisors, staff and partner organizations as needed:

Tree Value Signs — Martha Clark, Arborist

Many thanks to Martha Clark, Gracie Sauter and St. Joseph Youth Alliance, Lonnie Messbarger, Tree Board and SEAC representatives for putting those up. Diane sent in a picture and report to News Press from Center for JOY tree event, in article was in Nov.

10. Martha reported that she and David Ball have now taken them down. Many thanks to them for that work.

Pocket Parks and Tree Planting - Martha Clark, Arborist

As noted previously, Martha had ordered trees to be planted at Vories (Rest Square) Park and Seitz Pocket Parks. We had waited until fall due to the summer heat until new equipment had come in. Martha has been working with Scott Koch of the Parks Department for dates, At this time the trees are in an undetermined site. However, there is one Nuttall oak available which Martha will be planting at Seitz Park in a few days. She will have assistance. Many thanks to Martha.

Committees or Special Activities:

Five year Sustainable Environment Action Plan (these are listed as goals) — no new report.

Raising Awareness of SEAC through Social Media

Facebook: Jan Storts and LuAnn Cadden are administrators and have started adding information.
Social Media with Students. LuAnn's daughter, Rose, a MWSC student could start an Instagram or Twitter Account to share info about climate change/sustainability. We discussed about student rep in each high schools and middle school. SEAC could work with individual elementary schools about the importance of caring for the environment.

Mosaic: Connection could be through 'Connect It.'

Monthly SEAC newsletter on environmental topic. Dr. Drake has presented a list suggesting monthly topic for the 2020 year. We could additionally have a public program on each or some of the topics as well as highlighting this in our Social Media and hopefully the News-Press, etc.

Unfortunately, we were not able to discuss these in order to get consensus, but will continue to review at the next meeting. The idea would be that we would have a couple members sign up for each topic and contribute or ask someone else to contribute articles which could include educational information as well as literary art to photography.

The topics are as follows:

January: Tips for winter energy conservation
February: Interview with Georganne Bowman about Corby Pond (to celebrate World Wetland Day)
March: Earth Day preparations, sustainability initiative
April: The value of trees (to celebrate Missouri Arbor Day)
May: Interview with Dr. Mark Mills about Blandings turtles (to celebrate World Turtle Day and Endangered Species Day)
June: Establishing a pollinator friendly garden (to celebrate National Pollinator Week)
July: Tips for water conservation
August: Back to school conservation tips
September: Reducing your carbon footprint (to celebrate Car Free Day)
October: Doing our part to battle climate change (to celebrate International Day of Climate Action)
November: Recycling tips (to celebrate America Recycles Day)
December: The year in review

Margaret Slater could be a News-Press contact since she covers outdoors stories.

Additionally, Betty would like to collect vignettes, very short stories/narratives from the committee of no more than 300 words on environmental topics, which she would coordinate and file, and which could be used as well in social media, all of which could include our Facebook page.

Brochure
Other — City Link, City Highlights

Sustainable Alliance of St. Joe (Green Affiliates group to model, encourage and support sustainable practices in organizations, businesses) - See Earth Day announcement.

Decreasing single use plastics — no report.

Upcoming dates and activities

Super Science Saturday.

Dr. Barta stated this is January 25 from 9 to 3. She is willing to host SEAC again. We could again focus on the importance of trees. Jan will work on a promotional flyer.

Earth Day: April 22, 2020 — Earth Day 50th Anniversary

Subsequent to Mayor Bill's suggestion, Diane completed paperwork so St. Joseph would be listed through Green Cities Program in Earth Day Network as a participant. Our goal be to list our Sustainable Alliance

Earth Day Celebration:

There was continuing discussion of an actual Earth Day event sponsored by this team. The site which was most discussed was Civic Center Park; another, Felix Street Square. The date was not set, but activities would include booths, readings and children's activities. MW science club students, ideally, would set up a few booths, and other groups such as the Ag and extension offices could be included. Another idea would be an evening gathering which could include poetry, and other offerings. This could be in addition.

Adjourn: Next meeting December 18, 2019. We will meet at 5 PM for a study session to include further discussion of 2020 plans.

Submitted by Diane Waddell