

**Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Dec 18, 2019**  
**5:00 PM Work Session, 5:30 Meeting**  
**First Floor Conference Room, City Hall**  
**1100 Frederick, St. Joseph, Missouri**

2020 JAN - 2 AM 9: 28

CITY CLERK

**Work Session: Review Monthly topics for 2020**

**Plan: Approve list, list lead coordinators and plan monthly agenda**

**1. Community education**

- a. through media including monthly newsletter, Facebook
- b. through community activities or other educational opportunities.

**2. The monthly highlights were reviewed and adjusted as follows:**

**January:** Tips for winter energy conservation — Dr. Sawin will coordinate and send to LuAnn to put in Facebook.

**February:** Work with Leah Swindler regarding water conservation or similar topics. Note that World Wetland Day is in Feb. We have noted that Georganne Bowman is no longer with the City. Diane will check with Leah.

**March:** Earth Day preparations, sustainability initiative

**April:** The value of trees (to celebrate Missouri Arbor Day, April 24 - the last Friday)

**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). Mary Jo Harris and Shelley White will get more background resources to coordinate programming, sharing information.

**July:** Tips for water conservation. LuAnn Cadden will review.

**August:** Back to school conservation tips. Work on encouraging sustainability at MWSU. We have Western Warm-UP on Aug. 31.

**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

**Regular Scheduled Meeting Call to Order**

**Introductions of committee members served as Roll Call.** SEAC members present were Dr. Elizabeth Sawin, Sean DeWeese, LuAnn Cadden and Diane Waddell. Excused were Jan Storts and Dr. Dawn Drake. Representing the City was Patrick Ruiz, Assistant City Planner. Also present was Jim Hake, Chief Building Official. Members of the community who offered comment were Mary Jo Harris, Shelley White and Fred Sawin.

**Minutes from the Nov. 20, 2019 meeting** were acknowledged.

**Statement of purpose in recognition that we are a part of the Mayor's Climate Network was printed for review:**

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:**

**Pocket Parks and Tree Planting** - Diane reported that Martha Clark, ISA- Certified Arborist, planted a tree at Seitz Park since the last meeting.

## **Committees or Special Activities:**

**Five year Sustainable Environment Action Plan** (these are listed generally as goals)

### **Raising Awareness of SEAC through Social Media**

**Facebook:** Jan Storts and LuAnn Cadden are administrators.

**Social Media with Students** — Diane had emailed Dr. James Carivou, Assistant Professor of Journalism, regarding asking if his classes would work with SEAC in social media. LuAnn stated that the class works with local groups only in the fall semester.

**Mosaic** — through 'Connect It' — no new report. Meanwhile, Sean continues to work on conservation management on the north part of the campus.

**Monthly lead topics** as above.

**Brochure** currently completed.

**Other** — **City Link, City Highlights**

**Vignettes** — **coordinated by Dr. Elizabeth Sawin.**

SEAC members could write/collect vignettes, very short stories/narratives of no more than 300 words on environmental topics, which she would coordinate and file/ These could be used as well in social media, all of which could include our Facebook page. Dr. Sawin read an example of a vignette.

## **Sustainable Alliance of St. Joe (Green Affiliates group to model, encourage and support sustainable practices in organizations, businesses)**

The group continued to discuss the plan. We reviewed the work of Columbia, MO in recognizing business partners which Mary Jo Harris brought in the form of the "Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement Awards."

Diane will merge the ideas and submit them for the January meeting.

**Decreasing single use plastics** Committee (could merger ideas with Sustainable Alliance) for now.

## **Upcoming dates and activities**

### **Super Science Saturday MWSU Ja 25, 9 to 3.**

1. Dr. Barta will host SEAC and we will again focus on the importance of trees.
2. Plan

Volunteers are needed in 2-3 hour shifts.

Currently volunteers are as follows;

9-11	Dr. Elizabeth and Fred Sawin
9-12	LuAnn Cadden and Diane Waddell
11-1	Sean DeWeese
1-3	Shelley White
12-3	Diane Waddell

Activities will be brought by LuAnn Cadden and Dr. Csengele Barta.

Special visitors from the City would be a good idea.

Jan Storts is working on a brochure to promote SEAC in this work.

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

Subsequent to Mayor Bill McMurray's suggestion, and subsequent to paperwork, St. Joseph will be listed through Green Cities Program in Earth Day Network as a participant. Our goal is to announce our Sustainable Alliance at that time.

We agreed to host an **Earth Day Celebration on Earth Day, April 22.** We are hoping this could be at the Remington Center at 7 PM. Diane will follow up.

**Arbor Day with MO Conservation.** We will plan a booth at the Arbor Day Celebration but the date is currently undetermined. Shelley White will email Lonnie Messbarger.

**Adjourn:** Next date Ja 15, 2019 at 5 PM for a work session. at which time we are hoping that Patrick Ruiz, Assistant City Planner, might share sustainability successes at his previous workplace in MO. The regular meeting follows at 5:30.