

Sustainability Committee
City of Roeland Park, KS
Minutes
Thursday, October 6, 2022, 4:00 pm
Virtual Online Meeting

The purpose of the Sustainability Committee is to make recommendations to the Governing Body concerning issues relating to or affecting environmental sustainability.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/99339586327>
Meeting ID: 993 3958 6327

Committee:

Judy Hyde, Chair; David Smith; Carol Fields; Melissa Castillo
Wade Holtkamp, City Liaison; Jen Hill and Benjamin Dickens, City Council liaisons

Members in attendance: David Smith, Judy Hyde, Carol Fields

Liaison(s) in attendance: Wade Holtkamp, Benjamin Dickens

Guest(s) in attendance: Megan Reavis requested to join the SustComm.; Megan filled out the volunteer application; Judy contacted City Hall requesting Megan's addition to the committee be approved by Council.

Call to Order: 4:04

Approval of minutes: 4:04

Citizen Comment(s):

Additions to the Agenda:

Sustainability Minute:

- Members are invited to highlight and/or share thoughts, experiences, or observations from outside the meetings that illustrate sustainable practices and the importance of the Sustainability Committee's mission. (All)

New Business:

Old Business:

- **Idling cars at Roesland Elementary**
 - Make a recommendation to Council?
 - CMBR Rebne contacted by residents, parking disallowed in pickup/dropoff area
 - Potential resolution/or idling ordinance from city?
 - A general "no idling" ordinance would be an easier sell than doing it specifically for the school, tough sell for parents
 - Letter of concern?

- Reach out to PTA or school district as a committee detailing environmental concerns?
- **Light pollution mitigation**
 - Development of presentation to City Council Workshop using **International Dark Sky Association model resolution** (sent to committee in an earlier email). In progress. (Judy)
- SustComm potentially recommend building more EV charging stations within the city.

Updates:

- **Go Green 2022! Environmental Fair** (Judy)- successful, 40ish organizations present, estimated 500 in attendance including exhibitors
 - **Council update** provided on 9/19/2022: The **Go Green 2022! environmental fair** Committee voted to reimburse \$100.00 to Judy Hyde for event display supplies.



- **Cooper Creek Park Restoration Project** (Judy)
 - Follow-up invasive species treatment by PubWorks and Habitat Architects
 - Habitat Architects to plant the 130 native trees/shrubs; due to drought conditions HA will assess best time to plant.
- Revising the **Invasive Species List** included in the City Codes. (Judy)
 - Judy and Adison Banks (Cooper Creek Restoration Project colleague) will work with the city to update the code, and will report back to the SustComm for review prior to submitting recommended revisions to the city. (Judy)
 - Cooper Creek Park still has some winter creeper and trees of heaven. Will be treated by PubWorks and Habitat Architects.

Discussion (ongoing):

- Ongoing discussion regarding **budget expenditure(s)** and **projects of interest**
 - Current **SustComm funds available**: \$3,455.49 (approx.)
 - Committee voted to donate \$500.00 to the **Mighty Bike** sculpture/play structure in the Traffic Garden playground. Construction in progress.
 - Promotes alternative transportation (bicycling); outdoor activity (physical/mental wellbeing); community engagement
 - Contributes to Community for All Ages
 - **Native plants/trees** as a budget expenditure
 - SustComm agrees on potential installation of native tree(s)

- Committee voted to donate \$500.00 to the R Park Prairie Project (native plants supporting native pollinators). Jaime Davis/ParksComm will make a presentation at the Nov. SustComm meeting. Educational signage will be a component of this project.
 - Replace grass verges on Roe leading to highway with native flowers/grasses?
 - Tree canopy community education?
- Potential future guest presenter from **Ripple Glass** (glass recycling pilot program completed, city to provide all-city glass recycling beginning in January 2023)
- **Climate Action KC Plan** and related questions:
 - **Energy**
 - State and Federal incentive programs
 - **Transportation**
 - GoDotte Strategic Mobility Plan: City will respond to GoDotte plan when it is presented
 - **Solid Waste**
 - **Food Systems**
 - Food scrap composting
 - **Single-use plastics**
 - Review options for a city reduction policy for single-use plastics.
 - Possible container/item deposits?
 - **Land Use and Housing**
 - **Green building codes**
 - Develop recommendations for City Council regarding Green Building Codes for new development/construction.
 - Ex: The Rocks development
 - Encourage developer to use a cool roof (light, reflects sunlight), green roof, solar roof? Permeable paving? Substantial use of trees? Other?
 - Include regulations for reducing light pollution
 - New building code already adopts many green guidelines
 - **Urban Greening**
 - RPK Tree Canopy Protection Ordinance continues in development.
 - City will survey to determine which trees are in right-of-way vs. public property
 - Provide information regarding benefits of tree canopy protection
 - Provide information regarding invasive vines choking old oak trees (Melissa)
 - Develop/recommend an invasive plant species ordinance? (see agenda item above)
 - Tree planting is part of sequestration; needs to be done now.
 - Potentially plant native trees with Heartland Tree Alliance?
 - **Light pollution**
 - City transitioned to LED lights for streetlamps, need more detail on light hooding & lumens levels
 - Still room for reduction, and new construction can address light pollution issues (city can encourage or require compliance with regulations)
 - Review Dark-Sky recommendation to reduce light pollution.
 - Review International Dark Sky Association model resolution. Committee will review/approve presentation prior to Council Workshop. Judy will present recommendation to City Council to adopt resolution. (see Old Business)
 - Broaden this to NE JoCo / when to do this?

- Big office buildings should shut off all non-essential lights, especially during spring/fall migration.
- **Other**
 - Cigarette butts are a major source of pollution
 - Increase Code Enforcement requiring businesses to maintain property
 - Per Eric Nelson, Johnson County Environmental Health Specialist's February 2022 presentation on JoCo programs and initiatives regarding business sustainability
 - Get multi-use development property managers on board with recycling?
 - Require multi-family residential buildings to provide recycling services?
 - Per Karen Clawson's September 2021 MARC presentation
 - Designate a city resilience manager?
 - Collaborative framework for local governments to participate on their own terms
 - Possible collaboration between NE JoCo cities?

Ongoing:

- SustComm newsletter submissions (Judy & all)
 - Thank citizens who regularly pick up litter. (Judy)
 - **Sustainable Minutes** discussions could fuel newsletter articles/bullet points
- SustComm quarterly Council update (Judy)
- SustComm Community Foundation update (Judy)
- Facebook posts (Judy)
- DynamHex carbon emission reduction audits (further SustComm response, as needed)
- Continue CFAA policies to maintain certification; update MARC on an annual basis (City is required to do this every 3 years)
- SustComm to **continue virtual meetings** for the foreseeable future.
 - Discussed whether to change day/time of meetings if it would facilitate acquiring new committee members. Discussion ongoing.

On Hold:

- **Nall Park vegetative green screening/wall proposed** / SustComm response
 - Wastewater Facility Open House / Oct. 6, 5-7pm
- Discuss acquiring or developing a variety of **Sustainability-related posters, brochures**, or other handouts (for various events, etc.). Consider paperless options.

Adjourn: 4:57

Next Meeting: November 3, 2022 [virtual meeting 4:00 pm]