

Sustainability Committee
City of Roeland Park, KS
Minutes
Thursday, January 5, 2023, 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; Megan Reavis
Wade Holtkamp, City Liaison; Jen Hill and Benjamin Dickens, City Council liaisons

Members in attendance: Judith Hyde, Melissa Castillo, Megan Reavis, David Smith

Liaison(s) in attendance: Jen Hill, Wade Holtkamp

Guest(s) in attendance: None

Call to Order: 4:02

Approval of minutes: 4:03

Citizen Comment(s): None

Additions to the Agenda: None

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:

- Discuss/choose a **new Committee Chair**, co-chairs, or facilitator. Determine how to handle taking meeting minutes.
 - Megan Reavis and David Smith will serve as preliminary co-chairs.
 - Outgoing Chair Judy Hyde will provide new Committee Chair(s) with Zoom login info. All meetings continue to be held on Zoom.
 - There will be new Council liaisons starting in the New Year.
 - Discussion of ongoing committee responsibilities including:
 - KOMA (KS Open Meetings Act) / KORA (KS Open Records Act) regulations / https://ag.ks.gov/docs/default-source/publications/a-citizens-guide-to-koma-kora.pdf?sfvrsn=f054e281_16
 - Quarterly SustComm City Council updates: Feb/May/Aug/Nov

- Monthly meeting agenda/minutes: send both to Kelley Nielsen for posting online. Agendas must be sent to Kelley in time for citizens to attend meetings, if they wish. Also send both agendas and minutes to committee members.
 - Look to Kelley Nielsen and Erin Winn to answer questions regarding city policies or finances.
 - Community for All Ages continuing certification requirements require regular updates in order to retain certification from the MidAmerica Regional Council/MARC. Confirm that city staff takes care of this responsibility.
 - Judy Hyde will continue to post on the SustComm FB page. Can add ongoing committee members as an admin, if desired.
 - Avenues of communication with/from city include: City website, City Facebook page, NextDoor, City bi-monthly newsletter, direct communication with city officials, community forums, other. Katie Garcia posts info on RPK's NextDoor and Facebook sites.
 - Confirm with city that SustComm can include one non-resident, such as a former RPK resident.
- Discuss **possible future projects**
 - Potential additional collaborations with Mission and/or other city SustComms

Old Business:

- 2nd annual NE JoCo **Environmental Fair**, September 2023, date TBD (Judy)
 - Steering Committee met Friday, Jan. 6 to begin planning the 2023 event.
 - Dates being considered for the event: September 9 or September 23, 9am-noon, at Powell Community Center in Mission.
 - Judy Hyde will co-chair the event again in 2023, and will update SustComm as needed.
 - If Committee members are interested in participating/volunteering, contact Judy.

Updates:

- **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 will contact SustComm when presentation is completed for input/support prior to Council presentation. (Judy)
- Revising the **Invasive Species List** included in the City Codes. (Judy Hyde & Adison Banks)
 - Judy Hyde and Adison Banks (Cooper Creek Restoration Park Restoration Project) 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. No timeline/deadline for this project.
- Need update on whether second **bike repair station** that Roeland Park contributed to (along with Westwood) was ever installed. (Dave update)
- The **second bike rack** purchased by the SustComm (Judy update)
 - Intended for Nall park. Exact location not yet chosen.
 - Judy discussed issue of 2nd bike rack w/ParksComm. Parks will discuss further at a future meeting whether to place in another park or keep in storage at PW during the adjacent wastewater facility reconstruction/construction which may impact activity at Nall Park.
- **Tree Canopy Protection Ordinance** (Judy update)
 - Council divided on issue. Discussion continues. Item tabled, for now.
- **Cooper Creek Park Restoration Project** (Judy)
 - SustComm contributed funding toward native plants in this project.

- Habitat Architects planted the 130 native trees and shrubs over multiple days.
- Fine tuning graphics for the interpretive sign, Russell McCorkle from ParksComm doing graphics, rest of group providing/editing text and public domain photos.
- Councilmember Brauer working on QR code for signage.
- Daniel/PubWrks has installed the stones that will function as the base for the balance beam play structure. He is now looking for appropriate logs to finalize the construction (preferably hedge wood).
- The remainder of the split-rail fencing has been installed, including on the east side of the park.
- The City will still address stormwater/erosion issues. Future planting on creek banks is intended to reduce erosion.
- **R Park Pocket Prairie Project** (Judy)
 - SustComm contributed funding toward this project (tie-in with sustainability: native plants). Phase 1 planting prep completed Sat., Dec. 3. Some rocks removed from site; landscape fabric spread/pinned; temporary educational signage installed.
- **R Park Mighty Bike sculpture/play structure** (Judy)
 - SustComm contributed funding toward this project (tie-in with sustainability: promoting alternative transportation/biking in conjunction with the traffic garden, promoting healthy community activity, mind/body wellness, community engagement, etc.). Design, construction planning with engineer and fabricator, fundraising, all in progress.

Discussion (ongoing):

- Ongoing discussion regarding **budget expenditure(s)** and **projects of interest**
 - Current SustComm funds available: _____
 - Exact amount will be available after the first of the year from Erin Winn; reminder to add in the committee's yearly allocation.
 - **Native plants/trees** as a potential budget expenditure
 - SustComm agrees on potential installation of native tree(s)
 - Replace grass verges on Roe leading to highway with native flowers/grasses?
- Potential future guest presenter from **Ripple Glass**
 - All-city glass recycling begins in January 2023.
- **Climate Action KC Plan** and related questions:
 - **Energy**
 - State and Federal incentive programs
 - **Transportation**
 - Should SustComm recommend building **more EV charging stations** within the city? Locations?
 - **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.
 - Community education needed
 - City surveyed to determine which trees are in right-of-way vs. public property (Judy will update, see above)
 - 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)
 - **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. Discussion ongoing.

On Hold:

- **Nall Park vegetative green screening/wall proposed** / SustComm response
- Discuss acquiring or developing a variety of **Sustainability-related posters, brochures**, or other handouts (for various events, etc.). Consider paperless options.
- **Idling cars at Roesland Elementary:** *this item has been tabled, for now*
 - If SustComm goes forward with this, who would take the lead on the item?
 - Review JoCo idling reduction rule document & sample docs
 - Make a recommendation to Council?
 - Potential resolution/or idling ordinance from city?
 - A general “no idling” ordinance would be an easier sell than doing it specifically for the school
 - Letter of concern?
 - Reach out to PTA or school district as a committee detailing environmental concerns?

Adjourn: 5:15

Next Meeting: February 2, 2023 [virtual meeting 4:00 pm]