

Sustainability Committee
City of Roeland Park, KS
Minutes
Thursday, February 6, 2025, 6:15 pm
In Person Meeting – City Hall

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:

David Smith – Co-Chair; Megan Reavis – Co-Chair; Melissa Castillo, Aiden Ellis, Grace Suh, Ginny Varraveto, Natasha Rickel, John Puricelli, Jan Faidley - City Council liaison, Benjamin Dickens – City Counsel liaison

Members in attendance: Megan Reavis, Aiden Ellis, Grace Suh, Ginny Varraveto, Natasha Rickel, John Puricelli,

Liaison(s) in attendance: Khal Miller, Jan Faidley

Guest(s) in attendance:

Call to Order: 6:20

Approval of minutes: 6:21

Citizen Comment(s):

Additions to the Agenda: see below

Sustainability Minute:

Old Business

- Grace: update on DEI Committee project?

Grace will discuss location for the monarch pollinator with Harold Morales on February 7. Difficulty in getting progress with R Park/Parks Committee. Considering a pocket park, Roeland, or hill by Aldi's

Need at least 500 square feet of place with full sun exposure, monarchs need North/South Park near library? We want site to be as accessible as possible.

Need permission from JoCo library, Payton Smith training to be a naturalist

New Business:

- Repair Café popup in RP?

RP Resident wants RP to host Re-Useful repair cafe

- Volunteers show up and repair/demonstrate repairs

- Attach Repair Cafe to Go Green table?
- <https://reusefull.org/events/repair-cafe/>
- Update: we (Melissa) provided input to the Noxious Weeds portion of the city code

3 things taken out for not being natives, two added

- Ginny's update regarding mosquito management

Parks and Trees Committee received approval to plant more native plants in the sunny area of R Park

Ginny met with Jana and Nancy regarding alternative mosquito management (ie no spraying). Jana and her neighbors use dunk buckets- putting mosquito dunks in buckets will reduce their population

Start with education regarding pesticide problems, removing standing water, etc. Johnson County Extension Office

Wants to write an article in April/May RParker, possibly launch program to provide dunk buckets. Dunks are not harmful to other beneficial insects in theory.

Ginny to email JJL regarding space in Rparker

Give out dunks at Earth Day Cleanup? End-of-year festivals at local schools?

- Grace's Roeland Parker article

Grace spoke with PV Trees Committee regarding DRKC's native plant sales

- Print magazines don't reach youth nearly as well as older folks, maybe RP could email PDF of Roeland Parker to residents who would prefer it
- People who opt in also essentially get community digest emails in publication's dead periods
- Climate Action KC April 5- John and Aiden tentative to attend
- Budget/Bike

Jan: Budget objective deadline is March 3. 2026 goals. What would SustComm like to see done as a budget objective for 2026?

Pedestrian plan cycle is one year off, will be similar to Mission

This year we're doing the carbon emissions estimate for City buildings.

EV charging stations at community center?

Ginny and Grace to submit monarch/mosquito net plans to Jan, SustComm to fall back on EV chargers as backup

- Think of opportunities for high schoolers to volunteer in Roeland Park

Adjourn: 7:20

Next Meeting: March 6, 2025