

## Sustainability Commission Meeting January 9, 2017

Meeting called to order at 5:34pm by Chairperson Nadine Gomez

Roll Call: Rick Hawksley, Nadine Gomez, Ann Gilmore, Judy Nelson, and Julie Morris.

Staff: Suzanne Stemnock, Executive Assistant to the City Manager

Review of Meeting Summary Reports of December 12, 2016:

Mrs. Gilmore made a motion to approve the summary reports from December. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Nelson and was approved with a 5-0 vote.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

The Commission began the meeting with a brief introduction of each member and staff.

Ms. Gomez began the introductions by letting the Commission know that she went to Kent State University and became a teacher. She moved many times until she returned to Kent. She is interested in sustainability so she joined the Commission.

Mrs. Gilmore is an ecologist. She moved from Ohio for 12 years before returning to Kent. She has interest in making a difference in sustainability and wanted to meet new people so she joined the Commission.

Mrs. Morris moved to Kent from California about six years ago so her husband could finish his doctorate degree. She previously worked in the title business and wanted to change her career so she got her master's degree in sustainability. She has an interest in social justice and the economy. Mrs. Morris would like to put her degree to use through the Commission.

Mr. Hawksley went to Kent State University to become an architect. He met his wife in Kent and they remain in the area where he works as an architect. He helped begin Kent Vision 2000 which started the original Kent Environmental Commission that turned into the current Sustainability Commission. Mr. Hawksley is on five boards and commissions currently and was previously on Council.

Mrs. Nelson has lived in Kent for eleven years. She has lived in Ohio, California, and Pennsylvania. Sustainability has been a natural part of her life, especially recycling. She was involved in the solid waste taskforce in Stow along with recycling education in the schools. Mrs. Nelson wanted to become more active in sustainability and the community so she was interested in joining the Commission.

Mrs. Stemnock told the group that she grew up in North Perry, Ohio and moved to Portage County when she went to school at Hiram College. She then went to Kent State University for her master's degree in public administration and started working at the City of Kent. She explained what she does at the City and some of her hobbies and interests.

**Pg. 2**

**Sustainability Commission Meeting Summary  
January 9, 2017**

**OLD BUSINESS**

The Commission discussed possible topics for the spring edition of the Tree City Bulletin. They agreed that the article will be on rain barrels. Mrs. Gilmore and Mrs. Morris will work on the article together. The summer article topic could be alternative transportation.

Next, the Commission briefly discussed the current utica well reports and a map of injection wells in Ohio. The Commission confirmed that there had been no changes in Portage County since their last meeting. The Commission agreed there are still no real concerns at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The Commission began by discussing how to sort the pending list. They discussed the possibility of assigning projects to people and setting specific goals. The Commission started dividing items among months for discussion and preparation for the Farmers' Market. They agreed that they would not attend the Market in January. Below are the items the Commission would like to work on in the coming months.

February- Shirt bags (February Farmers' Market), plastic bags, Farmers' Market sign request update, Earth Day, pollinator gardens (March Farmers' Market)

March- Seed starting (April Farmers' Market), Earth Day, plan for future Tree City Bulletin articles

April- Rain Barrels (May Farmers' Market), downtown recycling

May- Community updates, downtown recycling, textile recycling

June- Bike & Hike Trails, solar panels (July Farmers' Market)

July- Planning session for rest of year

August- KSU recycling

September- Worm composting (October Farmers' Market), OEPA Grant

**NEXT MEETING**

February 6, 2017

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Gilmore made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Morris and was approved by a 5-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:09pm.