

Sustainability Commission Meeting July 19, 2021

Meeting called to order at 5:33 pm by Renee Ruchotzke

Roll Call: Wilder Hritz, Maryjane Stone, Renee Ruchotzke

ABSENT: Rick Hawksley, Andrew Scholl

Staff: Patti Long, Assistant to the City Manager

Approval of the Meeting Summary Minutes:

Minutes are filed, not able to be approved, no quorum.

Old Business

- a) Ad hoc Committee update – Nothing to report except that Mr. Boateng’s report should be completed in the next 2-3 months. Preliminary data suggests that the majority of the GHG are from the residential segment rather than businesses.
- b) Community Outreach Update
 - i. Kent Environmental Council– Ms. Ruchotzke mentioned the garden tour last month was comprised of eight sites. There were 70-90 people touring. The plan is to have one on the south end of Kent that will start at the community garden on Walnut, likely in September.
 - ii. KSU Office of Sustainability –Nothing to report. Ms. Ruchotzke suggested the group sign up for the email newsletter.
 - iii. Family and Community Services – Nothing to report. Remodeling is coming along. Ms. Ruchotzke shared that F&CS is assisting the Thomas Anderson garden by bringing the watering truck to the site.
- c) Tree City Bulletin – Two articles received for Fall. Ms. Long will add an estimated deadline for the spring articles on the next agenda.

Pending Business

- a. Waste Stream Reform – Ms. Ruchotzke spoke with Melanie Baker about composting and recycling but will need to follow up with her on the composting. The city is interested in composting but not nuisance composting, which isn’t tended to and attracts vermin. For the recycling details, Ms. Baker confirmed that contamination is the main issue that changed the contracts between the City and the County. Bill Steiner shared with Ms. Ruchotzke a report of contamination and she will share that at the next meeting. Ms. Ruchotzke entertained a motion to share the document at the next meeting, Ms. Stone moved it, Mr. Hritz seconded it. All in favor 3-0. Added to the agenda. Ms. Stone asked for clarification on the sticker on the recycle bins. The language is confusing and she suggested the County make it clearer. Ms. Ruchotzke stated the challenge of redesigning the stickers and placing them is costly. Ms. Stone mentioned that the information is also on the invoice and perhaps that could be clarified better. Ms. Ruchotzke to check with Mr. Steiner to see if juice cartons are recyclable. She also suggested we verify all items that will be used in the recycle game so we can know for sure

- what is recyclable and what is trash.
- b. Bicycle Friendly community – Mr. Hawksley might be our best liaison on the topic so we will wait for him to comment.
 - c. Farmer’s Market – Ms. Ruchotzke suggested a date be selected in September. Mr. Hritz and Ms. Stone to decide on a date. Ms. Stone stated that the person she wanted to use as a barker is committed to the community gardens every Saturday and will not be able to help at the game. Looking for someone else to draw people to the game table. Ms. Ruchotzke stated how much she likes the idea of educating people in a fun and engaging way. Ms. Ruchotzke suggested to have Mr. Hritz or Ms. Stone to set the date and contact the Farmer’s Market to get a space. Ms. Ruchotzke made a motion to empower them to schedule that before the next meeting, through Andrew Rome at haymakermarket@gmail.com. Ms. Long to get the Sustainability banner and table. Motion seconded by Ms. Stone, carries unanimously 3-0. Mr. Hritz asked what hours the table should be staffed. Ms. Ruchotzke explained that the hours are 9-1 and that usually the shifts were split in two. Non-members could help run the table with a member.
 - d. Community Gardens (CAC property in the South End) – No updates
 - e. Promoting Pollinator Pockets – KEC and Parks & Rec are still promoting. Ms. Ruchotzke asked Mr. Hritz about keeping this on the agenda as a place holder until it is time to plant again. Will start discussing in Jan/Feb 2022. He agrees
 - f. Light Pollution – no discussion at this point. Mr. Hawksley had mentioned in a prior meeting that he would like to amend the ordinance to reduce light pollution so we will wait for him to be present.

New Business

- a) Municipal Composting - Ms. Ruchotzke talked with Melanie Baker and found out the yard waste transfer site used to be a composting site but there are now different regulations for municipal composting in order to minimize health risks. Have a composting site is expensive and Kent does not have the space.
- b) Community Composting – Ms. Ruchotzke explained that in this situation there would be central locations where the residents could drop off their compostable waste. The nearest location to Kent is Rubber City Reuse in Akron for community composting. There is a similar service out of Cleveland that sells the compost.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hritz made a motion to adjourn and Ms. Stone seconded it. All in favor, 3-0. Meeting ended at 6:15.

Next Meeting

September 13, 2021 in person at the Kent Police Department in the Chief’s Conference room.