

Sustainability Commission Meeting January 6, 2020

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm by Chairperson Nadine Gomez.

Roll Call: Wilder Hritz, Renee Ruchotzke, Nadine Gomez, Andrew Scholl, and Miriam Jackson

ABSENT: None

Staff: Harrison Wicks, Assistant to the City Manager

Review of Meeting Summary Reports of November 4, 2019:

Mrs. Ruchotzke made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Gomez and approved with a 4-0-1 vote. Mr. Hritz abstained.

Public Comment

None

OLD BUSINESS

Ad-hoc Committee Update- Mr. Wicks provided an update from the meeting on November 7, 2020. Andrews Boateng provided a presentation on the GIS mapping tools available for the Climate Action Plan project. The next meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2020.

Farmers' Market Update- Ms. Gomez confirmed Saturday, February 8, 2020 as the next tabling event at the Farmers' Market. Members are planning to attend the market during the following shifts: Morning (10-11:30am) – Nadine Gomez and Andrew Scholl, Afternoon (11:30-1pm) – Renee Ruchotzke and Wilder Hritz. Materials to promote during the tabling event include the Environmental Film Series that will begin in February.

Community Outreach Update-

- a. Kent Environmental Council (KEC)- Mrs. Ruchotzke commented KEC had a visioning retreat with community leaders. A goal from the retreat is for KEC to become a central hub of sustainable communication in Kent. Another goal was to increase discussion on urban food foraging and local food resilience. Mrs. Ruchotzke confirmed that on Monday, February 17, 2020, KEC will have another meeting for the community to attend to promote the “Crooked River Environmental Network.” The event will be held at the United Church of Christ on East Main Street.

Ms. Gomez made a motion to include a sign-up sheet at the farmers' market for interested community members in attending the KEC meeting on the “Crooked River Environmental Network,” seconded by Dr. Scholl and approved with a 5-0 vote.

- b. KSU Office of Sustainability- No update.

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- c. Family & Community Services (F&CS)- No update.

Tree City Bulletin- Mr. Wicks confirmed he can send the Spring 2020 article draft to Portage County Solid Waste Management District (PCSWMD) Executive Director Bill Steiner for final review to make sure the information is accurate. Mr. Wicks also confirmed he will ask Mr. Steiner for a list of the top 10 recycling mistakes he sees in Portage County. Once the article is finalized, there was a consensus to provide the list of items that can/cannot be recycled at the farmer's market table. Ms. Gomez commented that a website known as Earth911.com can also be a resource for how to recycle almost anything. There was a consensus to provide a short advertisement for the environmental film series.

2020 Environmental Film Series- Mr. Wicks confirmed he can draft a flyer for the environmental film series and present it for final approval during the February 3, 2020 meeting. There was a consensus to think about advertisement methods for the film series including the KSU campus, Kent Free Library, downtown businesses, City of Kent website, and social media.

NEW BUSINESS

Waste Stream Reform- No update.

Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC)- Mr. Hritz confirmed he will be able to attend the council meeting on January 8, 2020 to speak in support of the BFC application. Mr. Wicks, City Engineer James Bowling, and Kent State University Office of Sustainability representative Melanie Knowles will be in attendance as well to present this item to City Council.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Ruchotzke commented that she met with Councilmember Heidi Shaffer and Mary Lang to begin discussions on a food hub in Kent. This could be a warehouse for farmers to drop off produce, as well as a place for food to be prepared and sold to local area organizations and restaurants. One example was the food hub in Oberlin, Ohio and could be a way to make Kent more food resilient. Information only, no action needed at this time.

NEXT MEETING

February 3, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Ruchotzke made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gomez and was approved with a 5-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:43pm.