

Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee Minutes
Feb 19, 2020
5:00 PM Work Session, 5:30 Meeting
First Floor Conference Room, City Hall
1100 Frederick, St. Joseph, Missouri

Work Session:

Leah Swindler, Assistant Environmental Services Supervisor, presented a powerpoint program on her work with St. Joseph Water Protection.

Mary Jo Harris shared information from the City of Columbia, MO, on the Office of Sustainability and their annual awards program. Note the categories used are Environmental Stewardship, Innovative Best Practices, Pollution Prevention, Resource Conservation and the Mayor's Award.

Regular meeting:

Diane Waddell, moderator, called the meeting to order. Those present introduced themselves.

Members present were Jan Storts, Dawn Drake, LuAnn Cadden, Elizabeth Sawin, and Diane Waddell.

Staff present were Patrick Ruiz, Interim City Planner and Martha Clark, I.S.A. Certified Arborist.

Guests present were Shelley White, Mary Jo Harris, Fred Sawin, Jennifer Hall Melbourne, and Robert Melbourne.

Statement of purpose in recognition that we are a part of the Mayor's Climate Network

This committee comes from a Resolution which states: *Resolved, That the City of Saint Joseph continue to expand on innovative environmental programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions*

Goals: Rethink, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
 Plant and nurture trees
 Decrease single-use plastics
 Decrease greenhouse gas emissions

The Sustainable Alliance of St. Joe [would be] a group of vetted organizations, businesses, and educational facilities in St. Joseph which models, encourages and supports sustainable environmental practices.

Diane reviewed the continuing planning for our Sustainable Alliance (begins Earth Day April, 2020) and Awards (beginning 2021.)

(1) Sara and Diane will meet with Tama Wagner of the Chamber of Commerce in March.

(2) Dr. Jennifer Jackson, Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication and Journalism, will meet with us at our March 18 meeting regarding SEAC logo and follow-through with promoting the Sustainable Alliance of St. Joe. This will be completed over two semesters.

(3) Diane reported that we can bring food for our April 18 celebration at Remington Center, per Sarah Elder.

(4) We agreed that in order to have a quality awards and sustainable alliance program, we need more time work on the program, with Dr. Jackson, Council and others. We agreed that for the April 18 meeting, we would concentrate on the following program:

- a. Proclamation by Mayor McMurray announcing 50th Anniversary of Earth Day and the upcoming Sustainable Alliance of St. Joe
- b. Review of the history and work of SEAC
- c. Announcement and description of the Sustainable Alliance of St. Joe
- d. Announcements of awards beginning April 2021, and work with capstone students

In Department of Communication and Journalism

e. Brief summary by various representatives of the community in business about modeling Sustainable Environment (including importance of local products/produce.) These could include Tama Wagner, Nicole Radke (Friederichs), Cris Coffman (Nesting Goods), Sean DeWeese (related to food waste or prairie restoration at Mosaic), and perhaps First Presbyterian Church (solar panels.) They would not necessarily be members of the Alliance, but representing sustainable work.

We will continue our monthly SEAC agenda 2020:

January: Tips for winter energy conservation — Dr. Sawin has written and sent to LuAnn to put in Facebook.
February: Work with Leah Swindler regarding water protection
March: Earth Day preparations, sustainability initiative
April: The value of trees (to celebrate Missouri Arbor Day, April 24 - the last Friday)
May: Interview with Dr. Mark Mills about Blandings turtles (to celebrate World Turtle Day and Endangered Species Day)
June: Establishing a pollinator friendly garden (to celebrate National Pollinator Week). Mary Jo Harris and Shelley White will get more background resources to coordinate programming, sharing information.
July: Tips for water conservation. LuAnn Cadden will review.
August: Back to school conservation tips. Work on encouraging sustainability at MWSU. We have Western Warm-UP on Aug. 31.
September: Reducing your carbon footprint (to celebrate Car Free Day)
October: Doing our part to battle climate change (International Day of Climate Action)
November: Recycling tips (to celebrate America Recycles Day)
December: The year in review

Pocket Parks and Tree Planting - Martha Clark, ISA- Certified Arborist

We would like to obtain a dozen trees from Forest ReLeaf for pocket parks this year. Martha and Diane will look into if any departments are also ordering trees, since these need to be ordered and picked up in a truck from St. Louis. We need to take into consideration caring for the trees for a couple of years after planting.

Martha noted that David Ball is moderating the Tree Board currently. The board is beginning to work with Neighborhood Organizations to work with them on planting a tree.

Committees or Special Activities:

Five year Sustainable Environment Action Plan (these are listed generally as goals)

Raising Awareness of SEAC through Social Media

Facebook: Jan Storts and LuAnn Cadden, administrators

Building Logo and community awareness

Jennifer Jackson, PhD, Assistant Professor of Communications and Journalism,
Senior Capstone students working with us in Fall, 2020 and Spring 2021

Social Media with Students.

Mosaic: through 'Connect It'

Monthly lead topic — see above

Brochure: no changes

Other — City Link, City Highlights

Vignettes — coordinated by Dr. Elizabeth Sawin

Write/collect vignettes, very short stories/narratives from the committee of no more than 300 words on environmental topics, which she would coordinate and file, and which could be used as well in social media, all of which could include our Facebook page.

Super Science Saturday MWSU Ja 25 — Thanks to Dr Barta and many others for their work!!

Guest report: Jennifer Hall Melbourne and Robert Melbourne reported about their goals for recycling in St. Joseph, a venture which they hope to begin. This would include plastic recycling and baling cardboard.

Upcoming dates and activities

Earth Day: April 22, 2020 — Earth Day 50th Anniversary at Remington Center
Arbor Day with MO Conservation April 23, 4-7 PM at MO Conservation office

Adjourn: Next meeting March 18, PM 2020