

CITY CLERK

2021 APR 23 AM 8:12

**Minutes
Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee (SEAC)
St. Joseph, MO
April 21, 2021 3:00 PM**

This was Zoom meeting set up by the City of St. Joseph.

Diane Waddell, moderator, welcomed those in attendance.

Members in attendance were Jan Storts, Sara Markt, Dr. Dawn Drake, Dr. Elizabeth Sawin, LuAnn Cadden, Kyle Beauchamp, and Diane Waddell. Support staff included Dr. Kim Schutte, Historic Preservation Planner, Colleen Armstrong, Assistant Environmental Services Supervisor, Water Protection, and Martha Clark, ISA-Certified Arborist and consultant. The community member on the call was Shelley White.

Diane noted thanks Dr. Kim Schutte, staff liaison, for setting up the Zoom call.

Thanks to Sara Markt for taking notes for the March minutes.

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 and native plants
Decrease single-use plastics
Encourage and support businesses which model environmental sustainability
Decrease greenhouse gas emissions

Old Business:

Rebranding, Green business awards, Facebook

Diane recognized the MWSU students of the Strategic communications class who will be completing their work this month. They have been coordinating awards for small green non-franchise businesses in St. Joseph, and the awards will be tomorrow night, on Earth Day, April 22 at 6 PM.

Additionally, there will be an in person gathering at MWSU on Thursday, April 29, at 11 AM for any SEAC members or support person who may want to attend. Students will present a summary of their work at this meeting.

Tree Projects, Prairie Restoration and Native Plantings

MWSU Prairie dedicated to Dr. John Rushin — Dr. Drake noted that a grant was received by a MWSU student, Rachel Motts, for research and planting this summer. Her work will be an asset to the program.

Krug Park Native Plantings — LuAnn Cadden reported that the plantings are looking good. She suggested that a small metal descriptive plaque would be helpful. Diane will follow up with Chuck Kempf regarding approval and suggestions.

Tree projects/plans— Martha Clark reported that there were changes to the tree ordinance for street and sidewalk planting of trees which was a list of 'do not plant' trees and the height of trees at the sidewalks. The tree list noted some invasive species. moinvasives.org is a state website she noted.

Ongoing City Partnership Reports

Historic Preservation — Dr. Kim Schutte noted that May is Historic Preservation Month.

She will be presenting a program for SEAC next month at the regular meeting and will be presenting several other programs during the month. She has send information for the SEAC Facebook page and is setting up a Historic Preservation Facebook page.

Water Protection — Colleen Armstrong noted that on May 6 from 5:30 to 7:30 there will be a coordinated time for planting native plants at the Corby wetlands. Team members are invited!

Mayors for Clean Energy (Ready for 100 Campaign): GEO Team (Green Energy Opportunity Team)

Diane noted that the GEO team had a successful first meeting. The Team includes organizations, academic institutions, community groups and individuals which represent stakeholders related to energy use. SEAC is represented as well as the City. They meet at 4 PM on the third Monday of the month.

Monthly focus for Facebook/City Highlights: 2021 Facebook monthly themes:

Feb	Clean Energy Focus (Dr. Drake)
March	Native Plants (LuAnn)
April	Earth Day (Green Small Business Awards with #GreenerStJoe) Balanced approaches to agriculture and energy (Jeff Powelson)
May	Historic Preservation (Dr. Schutte)
June	Continued historic preservation (Landmark Commission - Report from Roger Martin)
July	Sustainable urban planning/architecture (Sara Markt)
August	Trees (Dr. Barta)
September	Pollinators (Jeff Powelson)
October	Sustainable energy technologies (Dr. Drake)
November	Water Conservation (Katie Bruegge)
December	

Jan reported that the MWSU students have had helpful input on the SEAC Facebook page and will be turning their work back over to Jan and Luann as of May 1.

New Business:

We agreed to work to coordinate with other groups to *Emphasize Planting Native* (trees, plants.) We will begin to list community groups which would have similar interests and work with Jeff Powelson and others to coordinate and raise awareness of the importance of natives regionally. A possible theme: Back to our Roots (from Kyle Beauchamp.)

Currently volunteering are Kyle, Colleen, LuAnn, Shelley and Diane.

Kyle reviewed his hope for a 20/20 vision for a “*neighborhood greenway*” plan in which there would be an emphasis on decreased speed limit (of 20 mph) to encourage safe bicycling. There would be about 20% of our streets involved. Another term used is ‘bicycle boulevard.’ Kim encouraged Kyle to discuss this with Tama Wagner of the Community Foundation. We will also discuss this in the GEO group.

Program

Many thanks to **Dr. Elizabeth Sawin, who presented a comprehensive review of “Cleaner Resources: No Life without Energy.”** One of her resources was the book Energy Resources : From Science to Society, by Wesley and Colin Reisser. Dr. Drake knows Wesley Reisser personally and gave a brief introduction of his work.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 19, 3:00 per Zoom

Minutes by Diane Waddell.