

Minutes
Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee (SEAC)
St. Joseph, MO
May 19, 2021 3:00 PM

2021 MAY 25 AM 8:03

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

Diane Waddell, moderator, welcomed members, staff and other supporters. Members present were Betty Sawin, LuAnn Cadden, Jan Storts, Kyle Beauchamp, and Dr. Csengele Barta. Dr. Kim Schutte, Historic Preservation Planner, Colleen Armstrong, Assistant Environmental Services Supervisor, Water Protection, and Martha Clark, ISA-Certified Arborist and consultant were City staff present. Consultant Jeff Powelson, Private Land Conservationist, MDC attended. The community member on the call was Shelley White.

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

Program and Highlight of the Month: A PowerPoint called "*The Greenest Building*" was shared by Dr. Kim Schutte, Historic Preservation Planner. She reminded us that "the greenest building is the one already built." Diane thanked Kim for her additions to the SEAC Facebook page.

Old Business:

Tree Projects, Prairie Restoration and Native Plantings

- A. MWSU Prairie dedicated to Dr. John Rushin — Jeff Powelson reported that all is going well and last week a pollinator interpretive garden was set up. Dr. Mills, Dr. Barta and several others planted 100 plants. They are considering applying for a TRIM grant due to the ash borer problems.
- B. Krug Park Native Plantings — LuAnn Cadden is working on a planter marker for the perennial plantings in the Circus area.
- D. Tree projects/plans — Martha Clark reminded us that the trees planted last fall in cooperation with the Tree Board and Parks Department are Hochman, Seitz, College Hill Parks and Maple Leaf Parkway area. She will send us the types of trees planted so members can go by and check the trees.
- E. Native Planting Team — Jeff Powelson (LuAnn Cadden, Shelley White, Kyle Beauchamp, and Diane Waddell)
 Diane noted that Chuck Kempf is interested in the possibility of native plants being planted in certain areas along the parkway, realizing that at first they may appear to be uncut tall grass. This follows the goals of SEAC and we would like to continue discussion on this possibility, working with Chuck, Colleen Armstrong and others.

Ideas discussed included keeping the media informed, having a script and brochure to describe goals and advantages of the native plantings, and markers along the plantings called "Pollinator Restoration" or something similar.

Ongoing City Partnership Reports

- A. Historic Preservation — Dr. Kim Schutte

1. May is Historic Preservation Month and she has made several presentations.
 2. Kim has started a FaceBook page dedicated to St. Joseph Historic Preservation.
- B. Water Protection — Stormwater subcommittee. Colleen Armstrong reported that 25 people came for two hours for planting the native plants, and over 300 were planted in the rain garden, wetlands area north of Corby Pond.

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

GEO Team includes organizations, academic institutions, community groups and individuals which represent stakeholders. SEAC is represented as well as the City. They meet at 4 PM on the third Monday of the month. — (no report due to time constraints)

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 (Presentation by Sara Markt)
August	Trees (Dr. Barta)
September	Pollinators (Jeff Powelson)
October	Sustainable energy technologies (Dr. Drake)
November	Water Conservation (Katie Bruegge)
December	

Green Small Business Emphasis, including Earth Day Awards (transferred back from MWSU)

Diane will email the group to ask for volunteers for the following:

- A. Reset SEAC committee for Green Businesses
- B. Reset SEAC committee for Green Business Awards
- C. Review previous MWSU/SEAC partnership

New Business:

- A. Kyle Beauchamp reported on a comprehensive plan he has been working on which is a Greenways project for bicycle traffic.
 1. This is related to our sustainability goals in multiple ways
 2. He is not proposing bike lanes, but specific, strategically chosen streets for a 20 mph speed limit.
 3. He has talked with Brady McKinley (Public Works,) Chance Gallagher (Mo-Kan,) Bob Douglas (Traffic Commission) and Nic Hutchison about the project.
 4. Suggestions included the following:
 - a. Talk with EMS about the streets chosen
 - b. Try a pilot program first
 - c. Share with the group successful similar projects in other cities.
 5. Kyle is open to further suggestions and will share the map and update proposal.

Overall, SEAC is in favor of the plans, and would like to discuss the suggestions noted before moving on more formally.

- B.. Other, including Public Comment — none

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 16, 3:00 per Zoom