

Minutes
Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee of St. Joseph
June 17, 2020. 3:30 PM

The Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee of St. Joseph met per Zoom on May 20, at 3:30 PM. The Zoom meeting was set up through the City of St. Joseph, with Patrick Ruiz managing the invitations. Members on the call were Jan Storts, LuAnn Cadden, Dr. Dawn Drake, Sean DeWeese, Leah Swindler (Assistant Environmental Services Supervisor, Water Protection,) Martha Clark (ISA-Certified Arborist and consultant,) Dr. Kim Schutte, (Historic Preservation Consultant,) and Diane Waddell (moderator.)

The minutes of the May meeting were accepted with the correction that Community Action Partnership has not started a composting program as yet.

Old business

SUSTAINABLE ALLIANCE OF ST. JOE

We will proceed according to current plans. Diane suggested that members continue to look for businesses which have environmentally an sustainable mission/vision.

TREE PLANTING

There were no new reports, however we continued to discuss our plan regarding requesting about 12 trees from Forest ReLeaf for our Pocket Parks as well as a tree each for the neighborhood associations, about 24 total.

Martha still may be able to pick these up; ideally in September or early October. Martha will check with the Parks Department to see which Pocket Parks might benefit from trees, noting that Seitz Park would be a possibility. She will also ask what type of tree would be best suited for the parks they suggest. Diane will check with Carol Flury regarding what trees are preferred for the Neighborhood Associations. Leah said she would be able to keep the trees in a secure building until planted.

MONTHLY FOCUS (shared to SEAC Facebook, other)

June - To celebrate National Pollinator Week, Luann and Jan will post information throughout the month including information from the Missouri Prairie Foundation. Sean will send photos of the prairie plantings for pollinator habitat and forward them to LuAnn and Jan for posting.

July — In alliance with Water Conservation month, we will focus on the Corby Stormwater/Wetland Project to raise awareness about the area. LuAnn and Leah have been working on this.

August - We would like to highlight decreasing purchase or use of products which require recycling, or are single-use products. Diane will research ways to promote decreasing waste such as eliminating straws and plastic bags.

September - We are looking at promoting decreasing our carbon footprint. In our May meeting, Dawn noted that she will check on an EPA calculator and one from the University of Florida, both of which calculate carbon footprints. (We were unable to discuss this further this month due to audio difficulties with Zoom.)

RECYCLING

We will re-invite Robert and Jennifer Melbourne next month about their hope to buy a plastic recycling plant.

New business

There was no new business.

Note, however, due to problems with the audio on the Zoom, the meeting had to be cut short.

Next meeting

We will meet next at 3:30 on Wednesday, July 15 per Zoom.

Submitted by Diane Waddell