

2021 SEP -7 AM 9:10

Minutes
Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee (SEAC)
St. Joseph, MO
August 25, 2021 3:00 PM

This was a Zoom meeting set up through the City of St. Joseph.
Zoom connection was available in First Floor conference room, City Hall

Welcome and Call to order Diane Waddell, moderator, greeted the attendees and thanked Dr. Kim Schutte, staff liaison, for setting up the Zoom call.

July **Minutes** were acknowledged

Roll call was by check in with the following in attendance. Members present were Betty Sawin, Dawn Drake, Jan Storts, LuAnn Cadden and Diane Waddell. Dr. Kim Schutte, Historic Preservation Planner and Kyle Beauchamp, Advisor, were also present.

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

Our previous goals were reviewed, and Diane asked for discussion regarding 3 additional possible goals which reflect the continuing work of SEAC.

Members voted by consensus to add two following goals:

- Seek to reduce pollution of our water resources
- Promote sustainable stewardship of historic buildings including adaptive reuse

The group suggested combining the goal 'Seek to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy use' with 'Decrease Greenhouse gas emissions' but will wait until next month to confirm the best wording.

Old Business:

Green Businesses — Greener St. Joe — Subcommittee currently LuAnn Cadden, Sara Markt, Jan Storts, Diane Waddell

Diane has continued to communicate with Trevor Tutt, Mo-Kan Community Development Coordinator, regarding working with Main Street Downtown to promote our Green Business program. He has agreed to place the Green Business Application on their website and asked if we would like a space on their Design Committee. We agreed with this plan and the Subcommittee will continue to communicate with Trevor.

Greenway Proposal — Kyle Beauchamp [1] has completed his work and currently the proposal will be followed by Public Works, and continue to be supported by SEAC.

Community Education

Jan and Diane reported that the Greener St. Joe Planet Party on Saturday, July 31, went very well and was well attended. Many thanks to all who participated including Dr. Drake, Dr. Barta and several other faculty from Biology, MWSU; Jan Storts, LuAnn Cadden, Kyle Beauchamp, Diane, Colleen Armstrong, Katie Bruegge and several others from EEJ and the community.

Tree Projects, Prairie Restoration and Native Plantings

- A. Prairie Restoration - no new report
- B. Krug Park Native Plantings
LuAnn Cadden reported that the plantings are doing well and she has been working to keep the areas weeded.
- D. Tree projects/plans
Diane reported that South Side Rotary will be planting a 3 or 4 trees at Seitz Park. SEAC continues to work with Martha Clark to find a pocket park for tree planting.
- E. Native Planting Team (Plant Native St. Joe!)
Diane reported a that the Plant Native St. Joe had a very successful meeting on August 17 at Remington Center. The next meeting will be at the Convention and Visitors Bureau at 1 PM September 20. Jeff Powelson will bring Wendy Sangster, MDC Community Conservationist Planner from Kansas City.

Current goals remain as a draft:

1. Encourage native plantings in businesses, schools, public areas such as parks, parkway, and home landscapes
2. Educate residents of the many benefits of native plants and trees
 - a. Come up with a script related to the benefits to share with groups, etc.
 - b. Put together a brochure/information to share on social media
 - c. Highlight Markers as education (Pollinator Restoration, etc.)
3. Work toward making St. Joseph a destination for visitors for Native Plantings
4. Include native plants, shrubs, trees and pollinator plants

Ongoing City Partnership Reports

- A. Historic Preservation — Dr. Kim Schutte. Reimagining Heritage Neighborhoods, other (no report)
- B. Water Protection — Stormwater subcommittee, Katie Bruegge, Colleen Armstrong (no new report)

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

1. Diane noted that in the GEO meeting August 16, Stakeholders passed a Resolution, titled below, and SEAC, as primary committee will be asked to review and to confirm this resolution,
(See addendum)

2. **A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING PRACTICES BY THE CITY OF ST. JOSEPH AND BY ALL RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES, AND OTHER ORGANIZATION TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS.**

3. *Jan Storts moved and Betty Sawin seconded the motion that the Resolution be accepted. Passed.*

4. *Diane will forward this information to the City Clerk, Paula Heyde, and she will forward it to Mayor McMurray.*

5. *Diane also noted that there is a smaller subcommittee who will present this resolution to Council and move forward with other work of the committee. GEO will be on hold for now and the smaller group will move toward next steps including requesting a work session and taking the resolution to a City Council meeting. Additionally SEAC will be in charge of moving forward with a Sustainability/Climate Plan if the resolution passes.*

Current members of the sub team are Dr. Drake, Whitney Lanning, Andrea Cole and Diane.

Social Media/Education

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	

New business — None including public comment

Next meeting: Sept 23, and per agreement, we will change to 3:30, continuing with Zoom.

Addendum

A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING PRACTICES BY THE CITY OF ST. JOSEPH AND BY ALL RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS.

WHEREAS, residences and businesses in the City of St. Joseph are vulnerably situated in areas susceptible to extreme flooding events that are being worsened by ongoing climate change; and

WHEREAS, thousands of St. Joseph residents are vulnerable to extreme heat conditions that are becoming more frequent; and

WHEREAS, The Lancet states that "Climate change is the greatest global health threat facing the world in the 21st century."; and

WHEREAS, the public health costs associated with the continued use of fossil fuels and products, through the local impacts of pollutants that result from their extraction, refinement, processing, transportation, spillage, leakage, combustion, and/or disposal, are both high and disproportionately borne by the marginalized; and

WHEREAS, a report entitled Managing Climate Risk in the Financial System by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission states that "A world racked by frequent and devastating shocks from climate change cannot sustain the fundamental conditions supporting our financial system."; and

WHEREAS, the Business Roundtable states that “Unchecked, the changing climate poses significant environmental, economic, public health and security threats to countries around the world, including the United States.”; and

WHEREAS, the American Sustainable Business Council says that “We must drastically change the way we make, grow, and build things. We must change the way we travel, live, eat, and power our communities. We must change the way we do business.” in regards to climate change; and

WHEREAS, the transition to sustainable building, refuse and waste disposal, transportation, food production, and clean, alternative energy production, storage and transmission projects will create hundreds of thousands of jobs around the country, including in our own city; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of cities around the country including St. Joseph have committed to goals of reducing and eliminating greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the Mayor’s Climate Network and the Clean 100 Program, and St. Joseph aims to remain competitive and forward-moving among its peer cities; and

WHEREAS, we feel a sense of duty and responsibility to hold ourselves, capable of managing our environmental impact, accountable to those who are and will be affected by the extent to which we do so; and

WHEREAS, the price of climate action is an affordable investment that will pay dividends for generations to come, saving lives, natural resources, and money, as observed by the City’s savings of now over a quarter-million dollars through cooperation with Schneider Electric on sustainability and efficiency improvements; and

WHEREAS, the United States Chamber of Commerce declares the following:

Inaction is not an option. We call on policymakers to seize on an approach that rises to the challenge of climate change, leveraging business leadership and expertise, America’s energy edge and our ability to innovate. Addressing the climate challenge with bold, durable solutions and advancing economic prosperity are not mutually exclusive. Businesses can and will provide sustainable employment, while investing in the technology needed to reduce the risks climate poses to companies and communities alike.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That City of St. Joseph operations pursue cost-effective measures to reduce direct greenhouse emissions, including the reduction of emissions resulting from the generation of electricity used.

SECTION 2. That residents, businesses, organizations, and other parties located within the City of St. Joseph be encouraged to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases, both direct and indirect, associated with fossil fuel energy, chemical processes, land use practices, disposal of organic and inorganic waste, and other unsustainable emissions.

SECTION 3. That climate impacts be a top consideration and priority in the calculus of decision making in city planning and governing, so that lives and livelihoods are protected.

SECTION 4. That Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee (SEAC) shall provide ongoing recommendation to the City for achieving the goals set forth herein.

Date: [Date]

Type of document: Resolution

EXPLANATION TO COUNCIL BILL

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: City Clerk at the request of the Mayor

PURPOSE:

REMARKS:

Submitted by: Reviewed by:

—
Paula Heyde
City Clerk

Bryan Carter
City Manager