

# MINUTES OF THE GREEN INITIATIVE CITIZENS TASK FORCE

## GREEN INITIATIVE CITIZENS TASK FORCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD MAY 7, 2009

7:30 am • Leawood City Hall • 4800 Town Center Drive; Leawood, KS • Main Conference Room

### Members in Attendance:

Debra Filla, Chair; Julie Cain, Vice-Chair, Paula Cornwell, Camille Croteau, Carolyn O'Malley, Cindy Thesing, and Bob Pierson.

### Members Absent:

David Crupper and Alicia Jennings.

### Staff Present:

Chris Claxton, Scott Lambers, Marica Putman, Kevin Jeffries, and George Ertle.

### Guests:

Jim Twigg, Environmental Projects Coordinator, City of Overland Park (absent)  
Leslie Alford, Blue River Watershed Association

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Paula Cornwell called the Green Initiative Citizens Task Force Committee meeting to order at 7:45 am.

### Topic: Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

Paula Cornwell requested minutes be printed, two-sided.

Carolyn O'Malley made a motion to approve the minutes of April 2, 2009

Paula Cornwell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### Topic: Meeting Agenda

Members agreed to adjust the agenda's order. Paula Cornwell adds a discussion on the Fall Essay event for the elementary schools.

### Topic: Mobility – Biking

Camille Croteau reads Alicia Jennings' report that the schools, parents, teachers, associations, PTO presidents are interested in organizing a walk and bike to school program. She would like a confirmation of the city's work session date to discuss what needs to be done before that time.

Cindy Thesing speaks for the parochial schools. If they want it to begin in the fall it would be nice but you may not have the time to have the information ready if you are going to

meet June 15<sup>th</sup>. Peggy Reardon would have the PTO/PTA president and principal info of each school. She could use it to set up programs with Julie Coon to come into the classrooms as a guest speaker.

Paula Cornwell questions if we are suggesting that we send something before the end of the school year. There's a small discussion and it was agreed that something can be sent in June after the work session.

Julie Cain admits she has been keeping up with the minutes and commented that Paula Cornwell and Cindy Thesing has done great with the parochial schools but not so great with the public schools. She has a lot of ties with the public schools and has volunteered to assist Paula Cornwell with the public schools in getting them more involved. (Mission Trail, Leawood Middle, Blue Valley North the circuit her kids did).

Paula Cornwell accepts the assistance from Julie Cain. She explains that they are new to the process and maybe not aggressive enough.

**Topic: Recycling – Flier**

Cindy Thesing says that the recycling flier needs to be updated because Deffenbaugh is continuously changing what they accept and don't accept. Deffenbaugh and Town and Country have signed off on the fliers before they went out. Now, Deffenbaugh says it's incorrect. She has received various phone calls that the flier is incorrect. Marica Putman is to work with Cindy Thesing on the flier.

Julie Coon has agreed to speak at the schools (for the 2009/2010 school year) and Peggy Reardon is setting that up with a letter on our letterhead.

Camille Croteau received a flier from Johnson County advertising an e-waste collection every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday off each month. This info can be in our recycling flier. Paula Cornwell pointed out the high demand from the last event and so many walk away who could benefit by making an appointment and then given the location. Bob Pierson agreed that we made it easier for people to go there and drop off items rather than making an appointment. Camille Croteau notes that there was an argument that at least with Johnson County one can make an appointment and not have to wait an hour.

Bob Pierson suggested that we visit Harrisonville and see Town and Country's whole new recycling center. A date needs to be chosen. Bob Pierson will be in charge of this action item.

**Topic: Recycling – Recycling containers at City Parks**

Chris Claxton reported there is not a lot of use at City Park because we are still struggling with soccer (weather issues). The containers have been emptied one time and this is not normal usage at the park. At Ironwoods, containers at the cabins (rented every

weekend) are being emptied quite frequently. The logo has been worked out with Fast Signs.

Cindy Thesing suggested that recycling information be added to the soccer forms to inform people that we have recycling containers like we do with parking, "please do not park on the grass".

Paula Cornwell asks Chris Claxton about Brian Anderson's research on Blue Valley Recreation's interests in recycling containers. Chris Claxton replies that Blue Valley Recreation is doing it. She is directing a metro director's meeting at IRONHORSE. There will be a representation of 25 agencies and she would get updates.

Debra Filla, Chair was thinking about temporary signage, to have Marica Putman put Ertle the Turtle signs together and staked them where people tend to park or around high visibility areas. Chris Claxton says we have the signage at the concession stands to remind kids to recycle. Even after all the renovations at the Park, there are still parking issues and the area is now heavily signed with "no parking by order of police" signs.

Debra Filla, Chair has another idea to list a recyclespot.org blurb in place of the E-Waste and Shredding Event ad. We could have a scout troop to put the fliers on the cars.

Paula Cornwell and Cindy Thesing agree it's a great idea. Chris Claxton is concerned that the brochures will end up on the ground. Debra Filla, Chair suggests maybe handing them at the fields, then people would take them home, and have a recycling flier. A small discussion follows concerning ways to update and disperse the fliers.

There is a group discussion on clicking the turtle (Leawood's homepage under the Mayor's message), linking the flier, and listing other recycling information on the website. Marica Putman will work with Scott Smith to provide the linkage on the website.

**Topic: Hazardous Waste – Scary Stuff/Freaky Friday, Paint Collection,**

Camille Croteau is working on the booth layout for scary Saturday.

**Topic: Hazardous Waste – Paint Collection**

Camille Croteau met with Jim Twigg and they agreed to collect only latex. They will meet with Betsy Livingston next week to discuss it. It will be in the fall, either we find a contractor who takes all the paint or we could have barrels onsite to collect paint. For instance, white paint with white paint, pale paint with pale paint, dark paints with dark paint. White gives white, pale gives a beige (nickname is Johnson County beige), and dark give a blue paint after mixing. This paint can be reused and people believe it's the best paint to put on the outside of a house, as it lasts for years. She will need volunteers.

**Topic: Hazardous Waste – Essay/Poster Contest**

Debra Filla, Chair suggests Scott Lamber's idea about a poster contest for the younger kids at fall and an essay contest for the older kids at spring. Not grading them, 100% participation.

Camille Croteau suggests promoting bags for the leaves. It is a nice medium and can be like the poster contest except you draw on the bag.

The idea is well liked. Paula Cornwell volunteers to take the lead on that portion of the project (to do bags in lieu of posters for the younger kids). A small discussion follows concerning the timing of the poster and essays.

Debra Filla, Chair suggests getting a timeline going so that we don't overextend ourselves. Hazardous waste and a poster contest in the fall and focus on stream teams and an essay in the spring.

Paula Cornwell agrees. She wants to get the communication started and getting people engaged. Still, the deadline will be around earth day. Need to be more aggressive in the fall and be ready to work with the appropriate teachers.

There is a group discussion on who provides the bags, displaying the bags where and which ones? Displayed on the City Hall steps? Having the school pick the best one? Paula Cornwell will work on that project and provide an update for the next meeting.

**Topic: Time Line of Events**

Debra Filla, Chair gives an idea about the timeline. If we decide to do e-waste every year or even large item pick up around earth day next year, Scott Lambers can budget for that. Think about our ideas and stagger them. He was thinking large item pickup would be around June; after the spring garage sales. Fall, we have hazardous waste. And think about whether we want to do stream teams.

Bob Pierson inquires about the cost of large item pickup. They had done away with that in his homes association due to the cost. Debra Filla, Chair asks him to take that on and research it. Find somebody in the sub committee to work with the homes associations because if they have a large item pick up in their contract, all we need to do is coordinate a date and then some of that cost will be incurred if it's already in their contract so that the City would not have to pick up so much of the cost. Or if you know about it two years in advance, then they would not include it in their contract knowing that City would do that once a year. Bob Pierson explains that his homes association does not have a large item pick up any more because Town & Country picks up one large item every month and it was decided to do away with that expense. Debra Filla,

Chair coordinating that Monday and advertise we are having a recirculation day and to be aware of it. A small discussion follows.

**Topic: Water Conservation – Rain Garden Project, Leslie Alford**

Leslie Alford, is a guest speaker from the Blue River Watershed Association, a non-profit group who protect the Blue River and its entire watershed (covering Missouri and Kansas). She gives a brief history, starting as a grassroots effort to educate, twelve years ago. The organization runs on grants, one of them being with Johnson County, SMAC.

Stormwater Management Advisory Council (SMAC) is required by law to have education and they pay Blue River Watershed Association (BRWA) to educate people. One aspect of the grant is rain gardens. Their goal is to reach 5 home associations and build rain gardens in their community, educate the importance of it, and encouraging others to build one on their property from their hands-on experience.

For instance, the Prairie Village area has 50% of impervious surface areas (concrete, rooftops, something that doesn't allow the water to percolate down), whereas Leawood is closer to 23% of impervious surface areas. Leawood has a lot of green space, still a lot of impervious surfaces in which the rain gardens can help.

Rain gardens have a purpose. It is a garden that looks good and filled with native plants. The key to a rain garden is to capture the water, filter it, and slow it down before it hits the streams and creeks. Dirt, fertilizer, chemicals, and silt get filtered by the roots. The native plant absorbs it, breaks down the toxins and keeps it out of the creeks and streams. There is more information and educational resources on their website, [www.brwa.net](http://www.brwa.net).

A rain garden will be built at the Brook Beatty Park, combining two homes associations - Old Leawood and Leawood Estates, the grant gives \$400 to each homes association, for a total of \$800. Expenses should stay under budget, especially if Parks and Recreation prepares the bed for planting.

Debra Filla, Chair informs the members that SMAC requires the City of Leawood to do education; it is in the program guide. The city is already obligated to do education for stormwater. Between our goals, stormwater goals, and the city's goals, we are overlapping goals and having synergy than starting 3 different projects from scratch.

Leslie Alford mentions that education for the schools comes in the form of math and science calculations required by the state in that age group. BRWA has 3 programs. T.R.U.E. Blue Teaching Rivers in an Urban Environment is a water quality testing curriculum, Macro and Invertebrates, and Rain Garden Rains.

There is a brief conversation about how to educate the kids and get the programs into the classrooms.

Leslie Alford acknowledges fertilization issues. They encourage proper fertilization. There is known problem with over fertilization from chemicals, keeping it off the concrete or sweeping it back in the grass. It's really important to pick up dog and goose waste because it really is too much fertilizer for the lawn (too strong and intense) and the lawn can only absorb so much. If not picked up, the rest of it will end up in the waterways.

Stream teams see what the water is doing. A huge issue is silt from the construction. You can tell from the turbidity (the cloudiness of water caused by individual particles, clarity) when a house is being built, or it rained, or there are chemicals in the water.

Debra Filla, Chair would like for the members to think about a timeline, getting that synergism, and planning for an event. Achieving a similar impact that Julie Coon had for the homes association and applying it to our stream teams. There's a huge opportunity for a presentation and getting homeowners involved for the event.

There is brief discussion of cities and counties taxing for water. Overland Park and Lenexa have a stormwater tax that is built into their water bill. Johnson County uses their money and the EPA requires them to do education for that. Water is our number 1 natural resource in the Midwest. We have great water.

A brief discussion of how community services like removing litter from around the schools helps keep it out of streams, thus building around recycling and promoting awareness at schools.

Julie Cain, Vice Chair comments that she is excited to be on this committee. She is encouraged by our actions, topics, and expresses her willingness to assist with the public schools perhaps helping them adopt a program. She has knowledge that Leawood Elementary PTO has a great deal of money and adopting a program would be beneficial to all.

Cindy Thesing mentions the Education sub committee and Peggy Reardon. She suggested to Julie Cain, Vice Chair that they should meet and brain storm over the summer.

There is a brief discussion concerning interest in an upcoming rain garden class and working with other organizations like MARC.

**Topic: Good Bye to George Ertle**

The meeting was briefly stopped to say thank you and good bye to George Ertle who was presented with his own personalized copy of a Texas style Ertle the Turtle by artist

Benoit Vezina. Ertle the Turtle is wearing a huge Texas cowboy hat and holding his neck up high. It is a grand tribute to George Ertle who is moving to Texas and starting his career there. The framed drawing is signed by members of the Green Committee who wishes him well in his endeavors.

**Topic: Water Conservation – Rain Garden Project, Leslie Alford**

Chris Claxton mentions that we can advertise a fall class at the nature center for residents. Also take pictures of the rain garden and advertise it in the program guide. Another thought was doing posters and if you are really looking for participation. She feels that the bags are great for a certain age group. You can see them and the bags serve a purpose. She suggested a simple 8.5" x 11" coloring page for the younger kids and their minds will absorb so much.

Debra Filla, Chair suggests that the coloring pages could tie in for Freaky Friday.

Leslie Alford spoke of gentleman who suggested a rain garden model to promote them. She would like to have any models and is working on that. The visual is important. They would like a watershed model too. Discovery Center has a watershed model that is phenomenal.

Debra Filla, Chair mentions that Leslie Alford will be present at the Stormwater Committee meeting on June 27<sup>th</sup>. talking about available educational materials and not starting from scratch. The Lion's Club is interested in stream teams as a community service.

Debra Filla, Chair noted that Jim Twigg is absent and was not able to comment on the results of our E-Waste and Shredding event. When she spoke with Jim Twigg, he had mentioned that they had 20% more come at that event than any before. Her husband, Andrew Filla's overall impression is that he could not believe that people were that dedicated that they would wait an hour to drop off and pay for it at the same time. This is a good indicator of the support we have.

Carolyn O'Malley asked if we could have a shredding event. She knows of stockbroker whose company provided a shredding event and when they could not take anymore they went to Cintas. Cintas has a walk-in shredding facility in Olathe, open to the public on Fridays. \$60 up to 200 lbs.

Debra Filla, Chair asked Carolyn O'Malley to research this further and perhaps have it coordinated with our paint pickup. The shredding people had closed at noon at the event and people were upset that they could not get their stuff shredded. She asked George Ertle if he had done some research on the cost, in which he had and will forward it to Carolyn O'Malley.

Chris Claxton told everyone that 5200 Ertle the Turtle recycling fliers were delivered to the elementary schools and went home to the school kids. She thanked Lindsay Youle and

Marica Putman for their efforts. She gives the groups an update on the recycling labels from Fast Signs. They should be ready in a week. On the website, please send info and link it with Ertle the Turtle to provide info as needed. The group views the website to see Ertle the turtle. The group discusses magnets to pass out or put them inside a Plexiglas container in the window of the concession stand that says, "Please take one". The meeting adjourns.

Next meeting is June 4, 7:30 am.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 am.

Minutes transcribed by Marica Putman, Administrative Graphics Technician, Parks & Recreation  
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