

MINUTES OF THE GREEN INITIATIVE CITIZENS TASK FORCE

GREEN INITIATIVE CITIZENS TASK FORCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD JULY 23, 2009

11:45 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, Paul Duffendack, Carolyn O'Malley, Cindy Thesing, Alicia Jennings, and Bob Pierson.

Members Absent:

Camille Croteau.

Staff Present:

Chris Claxton, Brian Anderson, and Marica Putman.

Guests:

None.

Introductions are made with our newest member Paul Deffenbaugh. The Green Initiative Citizens Task Force Committee meeting came to order at 11:45 am.

Topic: **Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) Presentation**

Chris Claxton shared the presentation from the Council work session and the reasons why Leawood become a BFC:

- Promote a healthier lifestyle
- Environmental Stewardship
- Provide Leadership

Carolyn O'Malley asked about bike to school? Chris Claxton answers that Troy Rettig, Deputy Chief of the Police, is working with the schools and safety issues. The group discusses various safety issues of their own children and the virtual school buses. She looked at areas that had similar demographics both in economic and other areas or they were close to us like Carmel, Indiana or Naperville, Illinois.

Chair Filla mentioned that Columbia, Missouri received a 25 million dollar grant for building trails. Julie Cain confirmed the amount and read the award aloud.

Brian Anderson mentions that part 2 application is an assessment of where you are and your evaluation to become bronze or gold.

Chris Claxton points out what they talked about the 5 E's, part of the application.

1. Engineering
2. Education
3. Encouragement
4. Enforcement
5. Evaluation & Planning

Presented what we have and also what is proposed: 123rd, multi-use trails, safe routes to school, selling bike helmets at cost (not the police), etc. We are doing than what we had realized for the application. She spoke to Mark Klein about having the Planning Commission make it a stipulation to provide bike racks as part of their finishing. He would speak to Richard and Scott about that.

Creating a citizen advisory board was discussed. Chris Claxton suggested Brian Anderson as the bike coordinator. There is a need to work with municipalities that border our city. A motion was made to recommend to Council that a Bicycle Citizens Advisory Committee be formed reporting to Brian Anderson and Chris Claxton. Motion made by Paula Cornwell and a 2nd from Bob Pierson.

The composition of Bicycle Advisory Committee was discussed. Agreement that it should have city wide representation, include students, commuters, casual and serious cyclists and retail.

Topic: Focal Points

Chair Filla asked members to think about owning a focal point and to be the “go-to” person with that project or subject.

Topic: Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

Paula Cornwell made a motion to approve the minutes of May 7 and June 4, 2009. Julie Cain seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Topic: Accomplishments – Year 1

HOA Recycling (110 people attended)

- 2 Subcommittees created and active
 - Contracts – Bob Pierson
 - Julie Coon – Schools/Brochures
 - Impact on Waste Management Companies

Recycling

- Essay Contest (98 participated)
- City Council meeting for awards

Council extended another year for the committee

Recycling in Parks

- Leadership role to influence others

Website Enhancements/Links

Creation of Ertle the Turtle Mascot

E-Waste Shredding Event

- 2nd one is scheduled for November 14

Bicycle Friendly Community Application

Rain Garden

- Built one
- Nature Center class scheduled in the program guide

City Buildings

- Started recycling

We've touched a lot people with our messages.

Topic: HOA Contacts

Chris Claxton is to contact Richard Coleman to provide an update on current HOA contacts and emails.

Topic: Recycling

Brian Anderson announced that we have collected 2 tons of recycle materials (bottles and cans). Two bins (33 recycle containers in the parks). They started collecting cardboard (pool and the lodge) for recycling. Overnight campers are some of our best recycling sources. These amounts do not include the golf course.

He talked about the MARC's meeting about the status of recycling in the parks (not everyone is recycling but info is being shared). There's a lot of interest in what we are doing in the parks.

Action Item: Carolyn O'Malley will write a follow-up about our recycling achievements in the Newspapers. Suggested content: opportunities to recycle, impact, and recycling links. Bob Pierson will give Carolyn O'Malley stats from his home association and insights from his committee.

Bob Pierson is working to get a Deffenbaugh tour for Friday morning in September. Cindy Thesing would like to visit with Deffenbaugh personnel about their current list of recycles for the brochure. She has suggested sending our brochures to the school. Julie Cain

suggested that she call the schools to put the brochure on the table for the back to school night event.

Cindy Thesing has requested creative ideas to market the brochures at the grocery stores. People are coming in with the reusable bags but many have stopped due to bacterial contamination of the bags because of raw meat and eggs. The bacteria grow because the bags are left in the car and the heat gets to the bag. Chair Filla suggested asking the grocers if we can give them a supply of the brochures where the bags are sold.

Topic: Recirculation Day

Chair Filla asked whether the group would like to consider organizing a city wide recirculation day for next summer. Coordinate the homes associations for large item pickup (even if it's included in their deal) on a city wide basis, specify a day/weekend. The scavenger law would be null and void for the 24 hour period. Everything curbside is free for the taking. Have a city wide recirculation day. And everything left over will be picked up. Scott Lambers suggested related costs could be incorporated into the budget. Discussed doing it after the garage sales in June and working with homes associations.

Paula Cornwall suggested further future discussion on recycling objectives and focusing on recycling in general requested by Bob Pierson.

Julie Cain shared information about Ripple Glass. It is a new local recycling center being built. They received MARC money and is being started by the Boulevard Brewery Company. Each year 10,000,000 empty boulevard bottles find their way into our waste system and 165 million pounds of glass containers end up in our metro. There is no local entity to help with this – until now. Their goal is to have 60 collection bins throughout the metro. They will put 2 in Leawood. They are bright and large and reflect the sponsors. It's free and will go to a local company that makes fiberglass insulation and new bottles. Our codes restriction says we have to have them covered and enclosed. Two sites, big space behind Camelot Court and by Blanc Burger has expressed interest. Some people will choose a store based on recycle efforts.

Chair Filla suggested that this issue may need to go Kevin Jeffries for consideration by the Chamber of Commerce. Bob Pierson said Ripple Glass was shared with Prairie Village. The collection bin is the size of one car space. Any glass can be used and goes to Owens Corning for fiberglass and being used locally.

Brian Anderson brings up an issue about the ordinance requiring trash or recycling containers to be enclosed and mentions that schools do not have recycling enclosures.

Chair Filla shares that there is an upcoming work session to discuss the subject of recycling enclosures at schools. Staff will recommend that they will have to have them;

Overland Park is making the same recommendation. Cindy Thesing believes that they will get rid of them. Julie Cain mentions that it is very contrary to what they wanted and to be able to have the truck pick it up and drop a new one. She is speaking to Overland Park city council and trying to find spots with a natural berm or natural sheltering to get around that ordinance. Paula Cornwall questions whether the committee needs to solve that issue. Cindy Thesing is concerned why this is a big deal for the City as this deters from what the committee is doing. Bob Pierson brings up a point that the City is looking at it as trash rather as saving the environment. A discussion follows concerning locations, convenience, and need.

Topic: Freaky Friday

Chair Filla met with Camille Croteau and Paul Duffendack and it was decided to forgo a paint collection in the interest of time and planning and the upcoming e-waste event November 14th. The question was raised about providing a handout for scary things for Freaky Friday?

Chris Claxton thinks it still can be done, can be incorporated with a coloring book, or magnet. Simple to do, low cost. The group has a small discussion on promotional vendors and items.

Chair Filla requested that we link the Recycle Spot to our website for recycling info.

Topic: Electronics Recycling

Paul Duffendack speaks about the Electronics Recycling event on November 14th from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Church of Resurrection. He is requesting a small subcommittee to help with this, two others, one handling planning, coordination, and volunteer organization. The other would handle things like awareness and publicity. Carolyn O'Malley will handle publicity.

Carolyn O'Malley is interested in shredding due to demand from the last event. There are cities that have their own shredding trucks and they have been able to pay for them through the paper they shred. Chair Filla asks if she could tag in with the recycling committee, Bob Pierson and Cindy Thesing, and through the homes association and create the project on that. Carolyn O'Malley agrees and suggests a couple of locations where we are having a farmer's market at Mission Woods and Crate & Barrel, if the shredders could come there it would be a start. She questions whether people are willing to pay for the service. Chair Filla answers that they did in the past. She suggested contacting Jim Twigg for additional info.

The group discussed a possible second meeting with the homes association to talk about what's new about recycling, rain gardens, and water quality.

Chair Filla requests a volunteer, a staff liaison, to help and coordinate with the electronic recycling event people. Chris Claxton suggested Jeff Peterson, Outdoor Education

Supervisor. He's very much into the environment and scouts. The group discusses improvements and additions for the recycling event. Ask Loadmasters (military personnel) to assist us with their pallet loading skills and organization.

Chair Filla addresses the committee about a recycling challenge for local government. It is an opportunity for publicity and to show that we are already doing these recycling requirements. Chris Claxton will speak to Scott Lambers about the challenge.

Chair Filla announces that the goals for year 2 and the MARC leadership sustainability presentation will be rolled into the next meeting.

The meeting adjourns.

Next meeting is August 20, 7:30 am.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:45 am.

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