

MINUTES OF THE GREEN INITIATIVE CITIZENS TASK FORCE

GREEN INITIATIVE CITIZENS TASK FORCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AUGUST 20, 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, Paul Duffendack, Cindy Thesing, and Bob Pierson.

Members Absent:

Alicia Jennings, Camille Croteau, and Carolyn O'Malley.

Staff Present:

Chris Claxton, Brian Anderson, and Marica Putman.

Guests:

None.

The Green Initiative Citizens Task Force Committee meeting came to order at 7:47 am.

Topic: **Approval of Past Meeting Minutes**

Paula Cornwell made a motion to approve the minutes of July 23.

Julie Cain seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Topic: **Approval of the Agenda**

Julie Cain made a motion to approve the agenda.

Paula Cornwell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Topic: **Conservation – Rain Garden**

Chair Filla mentions that the rain garden at Brook Beatty Park has turned out nicely. Blue River Watershed Association has been giving tours there. A rain garden class is available on August 25th at the Nature Center and Joe Johnson has provided info on an upcoming Johnson County rain garden class on October 1st.

Jim Rawlings made a referral to the Stormwater Committee to talk about stormwater education, rain gardens, etc one of the council's goal and will be on their agenda for September.

Focusing on our timeline and taking advantage of it. What to advertise in the program guide that goes out 3 times a year, inserting MARC articles in the guide (redirecting

downspouts or how to do a rain garden/rain barrel), upcoming green events (Freaky Friday, E-Waste, Habitat for Humanity).

For stream teams, we need to speak with the stormwater committee about the concept of “Every drop of water is precious”, conserving the water quality, and understanding the impact from the lawns. The BRWA does all the training. A real opportunity to expand our sphere of influence is to the scouts and others.

Julie Cain mentions that Blue Valley North High School students are always looking for biology projects. She volunteers to be a focal point for that stream team student project. She speaks of visiting the golf course after a recent rain event during a stream teams meeting and was amazed at the debris the rain threw back up on top of the bridge. Chris Claxton agreed and adds a similar story of their findings from the Greenway workers, especially at the 119th bridge (Tomahawk Creek Park). Paula Cornwall suggested having students take debris pictures as the first step, posting in the guide and getting out the awareness. Brian Anderson mentions that new construction is the biggest contributor to this problem. Chair Filla would like to have a homes association meeting along with the stormwater committee and providing updates to these issues. Chris Claxton mentions our trail cleaning in the early spring with Jeff Peterson. Brian Anderson agrees. If we did a fall one, it would be in October. The leaves are down, poison ivy and the bugs are asleep, and it is easier for people to get around. There is a small group discussion.

Topic: Subset of the Marc presentation

Chair Filla mentions that Camille Croteau and Alicia Jennings have attended the MARC Leadership Sustainability Presentation such as the opening session with Bob Birkenbihl and Steve Hardy. Steve Hardy was the Lead on the Greensburg, Kansas Project and helping them to be the greenest city in Kansas, in the country. The Concept of Sustainability is meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Chair Filla noted that it was interesting if you understand the concept of how European cities are so walkable and sharing the road. J.C. Nichols was very influenced by the wisdom of European cities as evidenced by this quote.

“The lesson of every European city is the wisdom of thinking in terms of generations, rather than in terms of months or years-in the planning of a city.”-J.C. Nichols, 1923

If everyone lived like an American, we would need 6 planets to support life. If we lived like an Englishman, we would need 3 planets. Today 25% of the population in China rides

on bicycles. What happens when they have the same number of cars as we do in the U.S.?

Other cities are doing high profile Leed projects and require Leed Silver design criteria on all new construction and renovation over \$2 million. There has been discussion about Leed design for the Justice Center. Chicago adopted that as a standard for all city funded projects, as well as for all private developers wanting fast track permitting. A Leawood couple who at 93rd and Wenonga are deconstructing their home with Project Restore and are building the first Leed Certified Residential home in Leawood. Portland has adopted Leed for all city facilities or public funded or private projects. Chair Filla is impressed with Greensburg vision...Better, Stronger, Greener. They adopted Leed Platinum as the standard for city buildings in December 2007 and had the first Leed homes in Kansas by March 8th of that same year. Greensburg water philosophy is 'Every drop of water is precious'.

Amount of water is finite. The planet's fresh water is only 3% and of the 3%, only 0.07% is available fresh ground water from lakes and rivers. Interesting to note that our streams are increasing in volume while in many parts of the country, the volume of water in lakes and rivers is decreasing.

Kansas City has 40% more highway miles per person than any other major city. A question to ask, as a society, do we want to continue to spend that much of our resources, e.g. tax dollars - on paving and repaving our roads, highways, and streets?

Julie Cain mentions that an internationally recognized speaker exclaimed that not only do we have more here (roads, etc.) but that the average Kansan spends 30% of their household income on transportation costs. Chair Filla shared a statistic that the average Kansas citizen spends 23% of her income on transportation, 45 minutes per day commuting, and drives 19 miles to and from work. A brief discussion follows.

Chair Filla shared with the council the thought that the best way to predict the future is to design it. Fifty states have Leed Projects, out of local governments - 31 states have adopted it, demonstrating a 30% cut in energy, savings in operation and maintenance over time, and an increase in employee productivity. Those companies who make green a priority and are smart about their resources tend to be more profitable than those who do not promote green.

Paul Duffendack asked about Chair Filla's reaction from the council's. Chair Filla answered that it positive. Our recommendation for Bicycle Friendly City sub-committee got approval and was referred to Parks and Recreation for a Bicycle Advisory Committee. Chris Claxton and Brian Anderson to select participants per the suggestion we had shared for the composition of the group. After nominations, Peggy will formerly invite bring them back for council approval. Afterwards, they are then appointed for a 1 year sub committee (5 -7 members) of Parks and Recreation.

Cindy Thesing mentioned that SPIN Pizza has a bicycle club, meeting on Monday or Wednesday and they bike for 18 miles. Anyone in the club and their family receive 10% off coupon. Paul Duffendack mentioned that some corps own bikes and let their employees use.

Chair Filla encourages everyone to be thinking in context of the three groups as we make suggestions to the council - the city itself, the planning commission, and the citizens with the later being the charter of our task force. As a group, it may be appropriate to go back to council and expand the green mission as a city and ask the planning commission to consider items related to green. A brief discussion follows on suggestions to present to the planning commission such as installation of bike racks or Leed certified buildings, asking the council that the planning commission have a green charter etc.

Paul Duffendack, a former chair person of the planning commission, feels that there will no problems on getting the planning commission on board. He mentioned that there was an effort to do this in 2005 because Kansas City, MO was doing this and there was no interest then. Things are different now than it was then. As Bob Birkenbihl puts it, "It's an economic advantage in this day and age". And that's just a matter of education and awareness in this point on time with our environment. He is suggesting having others adopt green measures.

Chair Filla asks the group whether they have a motion to recommend to council to have the planning commission also adopt a green mission. The feedback was that the green committee defines what a green mission is before asking them to do it. Chair Filla decides to speak with other council members and the mayor and Scott for suggestions on how to proceed with that task and encourages others to speak to other members of the planning commission for interest. A brief discussion follows about the benefits and values of planning commission going green. Providing a general overview to the planning commission and allow them to act as a catalyst for themselves in going green.

Chair Filla asks that this be on the next meeting's agenda to make recommendations to the council for city and planning commissions.

Topic: Goals for Year 2

Chair Filla writes the timeline goals for the group on the whiteboard. (See next page). Chris Claxton suggested doing more education in the summer such as a green camp. Chair Filla suggested organization for the stream steams in February. Paula Cornwell and Bob Pierson both agree that February is a good planning month for upcoming events in the spring.

Paula Cornwell received feedback from the teachers. Earth day essays conflicted with testing in late March/April. Fall is hard for any delivery due to the holidays. She is

proposing an end of January deadline for the art project and April 15th deadline for the essay contest. She likes the photo gallery to tie-in with earth day.

Cindy Thesing asks about the high school and since Leawood doesn't have a high

	<u>Spring</u>	<u>Summer</u>	<u>Fall</u>	<u>Winter</u>
Recycle	Earth Day E-Waste	Large Item Pick Up (June)	Hazardous Waste Shredding	February (HOA Mtg.)
Education (Schools)	Essay (7 th Grade) Recycling Curriculum (English & Science)	Green Bike	Kids Art (5 th Grade, elementary)	High School or All Photo Gallery, possibly at the Library (multi-group workshop)
Conservation (Water)	Stream Teams Curriculum (Leslie Alford)	Rain Gardens/Rain Barrels Nature Center Classes		Trees – Street Trees Sound Barrier
Green Mobility	Bike Rodeo	Bike Event TBD Scavenger – Hunt for Kids	Safe Walk to School (late October) Bike to School Virtual Bus	

school, does that mean Leawood residences. How to address that? A brief discussion follows. It was noted that the photo gallery could be open to all citizens of Leawood. Go to a school with a photography program and ask if this could be a project for them? We advertise and they do the selection, mounting, and create a display for us.

Topic: Time Line of Events Updated 8/20/09

Sphere of Influence

2009/2010 Parks & Recreation Program Guide Timeline

- Info needed by October, the guide publishes in November
- Info needed by March, the guide publishes in April
- Info needed by July, the guide publishes in August

Paula Cornwell with the help of her 8th grade daughter suggested the following ideas. Proposing this be based from a book called "World Changing". It's about consumption and how much we consume. Her quote is, "It's a small world and getting smaller". How do we become more responsible as consumers? What do you think of the idea above? What does consumption mean? What are your thoughts about consumption? What is your role in consumption? Grading is based on the same criteria as previous essays.

The other idea is using art like sculpture and moving away from bag idea as it was limiting. Based on suggestions from her daughter, for 5th graders the topic is, "How does recycling create new or different things that we can use in our lives and help the planet along the way"? Find out what kind of things can be recycled. What did they look like before? What functions did they serve? How did we use them? How did these things change after recycling? How do we use them now? How does recycling help save the planet? Use some form art to depict how recycling is changing our world. The criteria would be based on: creativity, unique idea, and demonstrated research. The Art of Recycling.

The group loves the idea and is very well received. The classes keep their items. The judges would go to the class for judging and then for the finals, the top 3 would come here. This is scheduled for January 29. City Council to present awards to the 5th graders after Spring Break and a May event for the 7th graders. The essay contests would be directed to English and Science teachers and keeping the principal informed, and more aggressive follow ups. The letters should go out next week and will be reviewed prior to being sent out. A brief discussion follows concerning the timeline. Julie Cain, Cindy Thesing, and possibly Peggy Reardon will assist Paula Cornwell with the art project and essay contests.

Chair Filla goes back to the white board to update the board. Need to find an art or photography teacher who would take charge for the photo gallery project. The topic to tie in to stream teams will be, "It all flows downhill". What you put in the ground, etc. all shows up in the water.

The green committee has a full agenda for year 2. The group discusses A brief discussion on the timeline projects. Paula Cornwell suggested adding another category called Influence to reflect opportunities, strategies, and suggestions of being green to others. Sphere of influence.

Cindy Thesing suggested a bicycling safety week camp. Brian Anderson suggested urban forestry such as street trees as a future focus item. Chair Filla suggested it be put on next meeting's agenda.

Topic: Updates

Brian Anderson went to Columbia, MO. They are a silver medalist in the bike friendly award program and received a 22 million dollars (1of 4 cities) to increase non-motorized mobility. The money is used for bike lanes, new sidewalks, making streets bicycle friendly, promoting bicycling in special events, etc. Chair Filla suggested that we bring the topic up again when Alicia Jennings is present and when more time can be given to the subject at hand.

Brian Anderson mentioned that part 2 of the grant application has been submitted and Leawood Bicycles has been contacted for information. Chair Filla suggested to the group that if they knew of anyone who would like to be on the bicycle advisory committee to apply.

Paul Duffendack gave an update of the upcoming e-waste event in November. Working with Jim Twigg, they now have a site plan, making things go smoother, and having enough staff, doubling the capacity of what was given last year, and lessening the wait time from 2 hours. The big issue is PR and Carolyn O'Malley is doing that and volunteer people about 240, 120 per 4 hour shift. Julie Cain requested a print copy to take to the schools and coaches to help staff volunteers. It needs to go out to the schools now and you need a point person to contact the schools. There are resources and volunteers at the high school level. They are looking for projects. Chair Filla shared that there will be shredding at the event. Paul Duffendack has set up a meeting with Police Chief John Meier. A brief discussion follows.

Recycle Flier update. Chair Filla would like to see a copy in black and white to see how it would look for those printing at home that do not have a color copier and also for bulk printing to lower costs.

The meeting adjourns.

Next meeting is September 3, 7:30 am.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 am.

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