

MINUTES OF THE GREEN INITIATIVE CITIZENS TASK FORCE

GREEN INITIATIVE CITIZENS TASK FORCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 5, 2009

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

Members in Attendance:

Debra Filla, Chair; Paula Cornwell, Camille Croteau, Jennifer Hassler, Alicia Jennings, Bob Pierson, and Cindy Thesing.

Members Absent:

Julie Cain, Vice-Chair; and Paul Duffendack.

Staff Present:

Chris Claxton, Brian Anderson, and Marica Putman.

Guests:

Julie Stasi, Public Works Administrative Services Manager, City of Leawood
Jim Twigg, Environmental Projects Coordinator, City of Overland Park

Welcome and introductions are made with our guest Julie Stasi. Jim Twigg will join in after 8:00 am. The Green Initiative Citizens Task Force Committee meeting came to order at 7:45 am.

Topic: Approval of the Agenda

Bob Pierson made a motion to review and approve the agenda.

Alicia Jennings seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Topic: Approval of the Past Meeting Minutes

Paula Cornwell made a motion to approve the corrected minutes of October 1st minutes.

Alicia Jennings seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Topic: Essays and Contests – Paula Cornwell

Paula Cornwell sent out the fifth grade art contest and seventh grade essay contest letters to the Science and English teachers and copied to the principals and will follow-up next week. Essays will be sent to the attention of Debra Filla, City Council and forwarded on to Paula Cornwell. Due to the schools' feedback about school testing, the deadline was moved to April 15th. Student recognition is targeted for the May 17th City Council meeting.

Paula Cornwell adjusted the art contest letter based on the committee's suggestion to convene a small group that would go to the schools, select the top three and then display at City Hall rather than submitting all art projects here.

Chair Filla makes a suggestion for Paula Cornwell to contact Ann Kenney, Head of Arts In Public Places Initiative, to incorporate the student's art display similar to one in our lobby, as part of the Arts In Public Places (APPI).

Paula Cornwell asked about a follow up on a tree from the last essay contest. Brian Anderson replied that he has tried to contact the principal to talk about the tree planting and to make recommendations if needed. He has not received a call back.

Topic: Mobility - Bicycle Friendly Community Sub Committee – Brian Anderson

Brian Anderson mentioned that the first time they met with the park board; they did not have as yet any nominees for them to review. Now there is list of names recommended by committee members. The group discussed the names; still would like a student and a casual rider. Chris Claxton shares that the Park Board meets again next Tuesday and if they have a quorum; the people on the list will be recommended to the Mayor for appointments to the City Council on December 7th.

Chair Filla asked for an update on our grant submission. Brian Anderson replied that a written report was not received other than the email.

Alicia Jennings received information from Jaime Bode, Head of Safe Routes for School in Overland Park, and was given contacts for several resources for funding and starting biking along with the safe routes funding. Kansas has 1.5 million dollars funding.

Chair Filla asks whether we have info to put together an estimate for a grant request. Brian Anderson knows of areas to look at for incorporating a bike lane, lane markings, and/or signage. Cindy Thesing shares that there are tons of bikers on 133rd. it is a really wide road but there are issues with car drivers being rude, especially with turns. Paula Cornwell speaks of Mission Rd. being dangerous past 135th with its hills, narrow lanes, especially after dark. The group discussed other areas that could benefit.

Alicia Jennings shares information from the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration Routes to School. She has been trying to mark up a map with student addresses and providing safe walks for the students of Cure of ARS. It is labor intensive process and she knows of no computer software that will do this.

A group discusses the possibility of Walt Huff and David Ley (both of Leawood Public Works), utilizing our the GIS program to come up with a map to provide safe routes. They have sophisticated programs that can map up the different projects and overlay them

and possibly tie it into the GIS system. They can mark the streets that are wide enough, e.g. similar size of 133rd street, for possible grant requests.

Brian Anderson shares that we need location info, project info, and costs to target our grants. Chair Filla suggests looking at Columbia's example. Review their study; review their application and what they have done for grants. Alicia Jennings shared that she had spoken with Ms. Mosley, who chartered the grants for received by Columbia. Alicia provided Ms. Mosley's information to be contacted regarding grant information.

Chair Filla suggests that one of the first tasks for the bicycle sub committee should be to investigate opportunities for funding.

Topic: Recycling – HOA February Meeting

Chair Filla spoke about the Home Owners Association (HOA) meeting on our time line for February. It is not too soon to begin picking a date when the Lodge is open, reviewing budget for the event and start planning. Topics to include - stream teams, updates from bicycle friendly nomination, updates from Deffenbaugh - about lawn waste and requirements. There is a discussion on the cost of plastic bags vs. lawn sacks and how to enforce the lawn sacks use. The requirements needs to go back to the homes associations and it needs to stressed in the contracts and to be aware of associated costs to another landfill.

Paula Cornwell will coordinate the agenda. Chris Claxton will check the school breaks for a potential date. We have the 2010 budget of \$10,000 and need to start thinking about breaking the money down in terms of usage.

Paula Cornwell requested that a review of the first draft of the February agenda be on the next meeting's agenda list. Chair Filla agreed.

Chair Filla asks about the City Wide Recirculation date. Bob Pierson checked the costs with JR of Town & Country. The cost is about \$600 a truckload. In comparison, his homes association has a heavy item pickup of 1 per month. Even with provision in place; they still have 5 or 6 truck loads of heavy item trash that were picked up. This cost was built into the contracted price. If there is no provision for heavy item pickup in the contract, the cost would be more substantial, possibly 1.5 times the amount of trash pickup. We would need to coordinate with the HOAs regarding the scheduling and cost.

Chair Filla requests that the recycling committee prepare this information for the February meeting and have it organized and ready for the HOA to take action on. We will need to keep in mind the scavenger law and possibly suspend for that particular weekend. Also there is an opportunity to coordinate yard sales and divide the city up so it's manageable for charitable pickups as well.

Jim Twigg is introduced. He asked for his suggestions for large item pickup. He gets a Goodwill or Salvation Army trailer onsite and loads them with usable items and they are very happy to receive these items. They don't typically receive appliances. Deffenbaugh does this for them.

Topic: Recycling – E-Waste November 14th – Jim Twigg

Jim Twigg announced that the Recycling event for Saturday, November 14th is from 8 am to 2 pm. Questions were asked if shredding would be available at the event. He will get a commitment from them tomorrow.

Julie Stasi relayed her experience of a person calling the next day after the last shredding event, which she waited over an hour and never got through. She suggested that this person bring the items to City Hall and she dispose it through her Shred-It box. This person brought in one box. It was a good PR move.

Jim Twigg is working with the Shred-It company and they are the ones that will be at this event. He met with Paul Duffendack last week and everyone was positive about the preparation for event's setup. Brian Anderson is working with the signage. Jim Twigg will have gators to move objects, provide cones and barricades. Leawood will provide forklifts. They are working on recruiting volunteers. There is fair number of volunteers but Jim would like to have 40 to 45 people more, mostly to help with unloading. Fliers sent out included information about volunteer recruitment.

Bob Pierson asked what determines the range cost of \$10 - \$25. Jim Twigg replies that monitors are typically \$10. TVs start at \$10 - \$25 depending on size. A 19" TV is \$10. TVs that are 10"-27" are \$15, and the larger ones are \$20-\$25. Signs were made to show the cost. Greeters will meet with people and explain that we are charging for some items as they come in the general area.

Chair Filla suggested a one-page flier with tear off to help speed the receipt process. Jim Twigg wants the volunteers to write out the receipts. He has people marking the items paid for. Bob Pierson mentions that it is a good idea to have two people working together, someone collecting money and someone checking items. Last time the hang up was getting checked in, not knowing the cost, having the right amount of money or didn't have it. Jim Twigg assures that he will get more people to do that.

Jim Twigg mentioned that the traffic flow for this event is set up so that people who need only shredding will not have to enter the e-waste line. Everyone agreed this is good.

Chair Filla suggested handing out the recycling brochures. Jim Twigg will try to get some brochures from Recycle Spot and Johnson County Hazardous Waste. He announced that Black & Veatch is donating 500 plastic/fabric grocery bags and these brochures can be put inside the bags.

Camille Croteau asked about the volunteer video training. Jim Twigg had taken the pictures and they are in the process of putting the video together. The plan is to put it on YouTube for everyone to view. Other questions arise about volunteers. Volunteers will meet in the food area. He is planning to send out an email to all volunteers, with a map of the site and where to park.

Paula Cornwell asked if our HOA list will be used. Marica Putman shares that the HOA have not been used. Often the emails are undeliverable. Some come back from private HOA's that do not want any contact from the City of Leawood. Others come back and ask if they be removed from this group. The HOA email list is individual listings and not as a group due to nature of its upkeep – which is very time consuming. Julie Stasi has volunteered Karen Rust to update the HOA list so that the recycling flier can be sent out to them and they can be aware of the recycling event.

Paula Cornwell asked about the traffic flow for the HOA across the street from the Church of the Resurrection. Brian Anderson shares that Paul Duffendack has met with the Police and that they know about the event. They will not be present at the event but will come out if the need arises. Jim Twigg assures that there are multiple lanes, two tents, etc. There are dedicated streets out to Nall and Roe and both are divided four lanes. He does not anticipate a back up like the last event.

Brian Anderson gives the group an update on the signage. Paul Duffendack gave a list for signs. He has the banners set up in a couple places in town and will put them out on the corners of 135th for the day of the event. The group likes the banners which have temporary letters and allow changes for dates in the future. Due to time constraints he is moving forward with the little signs. Arrow signs, double sided, exit only, welcome to recycling, electronic recycling, no entrance, shredding only, etc. This will help steer the flow of traffic and assure less congestion.

The group discusses public relations. Chair Filla has contacted Fox 4 and Jim Twigg has contacted Channel 5. Camille Croteau asked how to especially thank the Church of The Resurrection. Chris Claxton suggested thanking them in our Thank-You Sponsors and Partners section of our Parks & Recreation Program Guide. Jim Twigg added that we can have Leawood Public Works sweep their parking lot from our usage on Monday.

Last minute details are discussed. The event shifts are from 8 am-10 am, 10 am-12 pm, 12 pm-2 pm. Everyone should be there approximately 15 minutes before their shift starts.

Other recycling venues are mentioned. Cindy Thesing shares that Best Buy accepts electronics, depending on what it is there is no charge. If a computer monitor or TV, they will take two items per day, for \$10 and then give you a \$10 gift card. Paula Cornwell shares that all Sprint stores recycle handsets and then donated to women's shelters, etc.

Chris Claxton mentions the importance of keeping the recycling stats. A majority of people are unaware or do not realize the impact recycling has. Jim Twigg has a photographer that will take pictures of the event for recording purposes.

Topic: Recycling – Freaky Friday – Camille Croteau

Camille Croteau thanks Marica Putman, Alicia Jennings, and Chris Claxton for their help. It was a cold evening, not jam packed, and they could address hazardous issues with people. Camille Croteau and Alicia Jennings spoke of recyclables, upcoming recycling event, gave out the recycling fliers.

It was fun for the kids as they had to spot the intruder on the hazardous waste shelf. It was a bag of Oreo cookies. They talked about the Johnson County Hazardous Waste Program to the parents. They gave out paper with drawings on both sides. One side had the message about the committee and the other side had information about the recycling event. Julie Stasi provided us with the legal size paper. Left over drawings will be given to schools before Halloween and to Children's Mercy Hospital. Will try to include PEDs offices in the future.

Chris Claxton will take some downstairs for the classes to give siblings something to do.

Alicia Jennings suggested sending them to the Antioch Library. This one branch will distribute brochures to all the branches.

Camille Croteau mentions that she printed out two posters that can be reusable. Chair Filla appreciated that Camille had made a template for future use.

Chris Claxton commented that the booth was very inviting. It made you want to check it out. Alicia Jennings mentioned that they gave away a lot of info about hazardous waste, which was their aim.

Chair Filla suggested that we include the display at the HOA meeting, set up a table, plus have Julie Coon provide an update.

Cindy Thesing has been working with Peggy Reardon over the summer, has sent letters to principals (outgoing and incoming), sending info about Julie Coon, that they will come into the schools, age, how to do it and some of the schools, grade schools have an environmental clubs.

Chair Filla asked that Cindy Thesing or Peggy Reardon be on the agenda to talk about the program and to share with the HOAs about describing to them how much has happened, what we are doing, how many times she presented this to, which group, etc.

Cindy Thesing will ask Peggy Reardon to do this and for Julie Coon to speak of the new things, quick update of the schools, what she's sharing with the schools. We can cover these materials. Julie Coon may want to incorporate that in her programs.

The group thanked Camille Croteau for a great display.

Topic: Recycling – Ripple Glass

Bob Pierson asked if there is a pick up spot in Leawood for Ripple Glass. A map on their website shows there's one in Leawood but he is not able to locate it. Chair Filla explained that we didn't take ownership rather suggested they contacted the Chambers of Commerce.

Chair Filla shared that the Council did have a work session on the recycling containers at the schools and newspaper pick up. It was a result of a parent at Brookwood school complaining when a third recycling container was put out on curbside and trash starting to show up. The Council is going to ask that recycling containers be landscaped or have enclosure for three sides and be on hard surface vs. mud. The Council will work individually with each school and they will have up to two years to comply. There was a brief discussion concerning the parochial schools and their participation in the new requirements. Chair Filla assured everyone that it was not meant to be a hardship. The thought was to be consistent. You cannot ask your businesses to do something you are not asking the schools to do. Brian Anderson mentioned how he had to comply by tearing out and adding on to the ones at City Park.

Topic: Conservation - Water

Chair Filla mentions that Dustin Branick is trying to do big rain garden at 119th. And while redoing the stormwater page, they found out that we prohibit rain barrels. The staff is working on it. Reasons to do a rain barrel are 1) to have the ability to conserve of water when needed, and b) non-chlorinated water is best for watering plants.

Camille Croteau asked if the rain garden we planted need any work this fall. Chris Claxton replies that Dustin Branick is monitoring and keeping up with the Brook Beatty rain garden. Brian Anderson said Dustin Branick has been speaking with Leslie Alford about a new rain garden at 119th and Tomahawk Chair Filla shared that Leslie Alford is very excited about the spot Dustin had picked out, saying it was a perfect spot. She continues to use our example of Brook Beatty Park of what can be accomplished through teamwork. The question was brought up if we are offering any more classes. Chris Claxton answers probably next year. Classes about rain barrels are tabled until our codes are updated.

Paula Cornwell would like to add to the agenda for February's HOA meeting an e-waste and rain garden display. This will provide a great opportunity to do a couple of booths. Have a picture display of Brook Beatty Park and a couple of plants.

Chair Filla suggests to Jennifer Hassler about Stream Teams to map out the entire city to see how many Stream Teams they wanted. Staff them up with volunteers, staff, neighbors, boys and girls scouts, etc. Set with a big goal and get started.

Chris Claxton agreed that we could use the help with stream clean-up. It's a constant. Every time we get rain everything done gets undone. Everything travels downstream. Brian Anderson's guys are trying to manage the natural elements and the trash on top of it. It's overwhelming.

Brian Anderson asks if the north waterways are private. Julie Stasi tells him they are. He mentions the issue of organizing a stream cleanups on private property. Chair Filla agrees and for that reason the stream team will need to be organized through the HOA allowing them to organize and invite homeowner located on a streams. Sustainability leadership - what can we do citywide? Create awareness. Include teaching parents, home owners, provide for monitoring which will facilitate learning about pesticides, herbicides, and trash - because as Brian said, Everything flows downhill. Then the residents will start seeing things differently. Plus Stream Teams will be in place to organize clean ups

Chair Filla discusses Parking Lots to Park by MARC. She will share the permeable concrete information to the Stormwater Committee. Other cities have taken a street that doesn't have a lot of parking requirements, build out sections for rain garden and storm water filtering. People loved it and wanted their own streets to be done similarly with great restructuring of sidewalks. Another example, taking out the curbs, put in planters, incorporate stormwater plus it's now friendly for bikes. They have done an impressive change of landscapes that really magnify the share the road concept. A possible great idea is 85th Terr., between State Line and Lee Blvd, with grant funding from SMAC. Upside is that is a small, definable area to create an ideal streetscape.

Topic: Other Items

Chair Filla speaks about the request from KC House Whisperer and other vendors to speak to our committee. After a brief discussion it was decided that the committee did not want to do play a role of consumer advocacy or endorsement. That is not to say that some point in the future, the committee's view point might change. Or that the committee might suggest participating in neighborhood energy fairs and the like. This might be something we do as an extra. Our schedule is full and robust and often we cannot get our agenda done in the allotted time schedule. Agreed to get another year and the Stream Teams under our belt first.

Chair Filla spoke of our request for the Planning Commission to review green initiatives. During the committee report at the council meeting, there was much concern that our suggestion to the Planning Commission focus on voluntary vs. mandated ideas, much as our committee had done. Julie Cain shared that members of the Planning Commission was interested and eager. When the mayor asked about FARS, a spatial and amenity trade off for a developer for an ecological feature, Scott Lamberts said he wasn't going to take anything off the table for Planning Commission to consider in addition to our ideas of something as simple as a checklist with a bike rack on it to, or we'll give you extra parking spaces if you do something cool with a rain garden. Between when this was idea was proposed at the council meeting and now, the Planning Commission have already had their first introductory meeting due to a cancellation of a planned topic.

Motion to adjourn. Paula Cornwell so moved. Camille Croteau seconds.

Next meeting is December 3rd at 7:30 am.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:04 am.

Minutes transcribed by Marica Putman, Administrative Graphics Technician, Parks & Recreation
GITCF 11-5-09.