

MINUTES OF THE GREEN INITIATIVE CITIZENS TASK FORCE

DECEMBER 3, 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, Jennifer Hassler, Bob Pierson, and Cindy Thesing.

Members Absent:

Alicia Jennings and Paul Duffendack.

Staff Present:

Chris Claxton and Marica Putman.

Guests:

None.

The Green Initiative Citizens Task Force Committee meeting came to order at 7:40 am.

Topic: Approval of the Past Meeting Minutes

Julie Cain made a motion to approve the corrected minutes of November 5th.
Paula Cornwell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Topic: Intro/Bio of Pending New Committee Member - Carol (K.O.) Strohbehn

Carol (K.O.) Strohbehn was nominated to be a Green Initiative Citizens Task Force Committee member and her nomination will be on the City Council Meeting Agenda this Monday, December 7th. . Carol Strohbehn's resume was given to committee members in November's meeting.

Topic: Essays and Contests – Paula Cornwell

November's meeting minutes included sample letters for the essay and art contests sent out to all the schools. Follow-ups will be made in January with the contest ending in March.

Art will be displayed for a period of time and returned to the student.

- Date will be chosen to collect three pieces from each participating school.
- Perspective judges to review artwork will be invited from the League Guild (UMKC) and from APPI (Ann Kenney).

Essays will be sent to City Hall in care of Debra Filla.

- Essays will be sorted by Paula Cornwell, Camille Croteau, and Cindy Thesing with final letters of recommendation to Chair Filla and Mayor Peggy Dunn.
- The committee is in favor of Paula Cornwell's daughter, an 8th grader at Prairie Star Middle, receiving community service hours for her work serving this committee by editing letters, retrieving email addresses, and researching last years' winning essays.

Paula Cornwell will submit a prize budget to the committee. Chair Filla suggests contacting Kevin Jeffries of the Leawood Chamber of Commerce so see if he would make an announcement to member businesses regarding donations of promotional items as contest prizes for approximately two (2) dozen participants. Examples: movie theater coupons, lip balms, pizza coupons, etc.

Topic: Proposed Change to Our Mission Statement – Debra Filla

Chair Filla pointed out that the committee picked water and stream teams as conservation projects. The committee decided to focus on conservation in general rather than aiming only at energy conservation. The committee then voted to approve this change to our mission statement by deleting "energy" in front of conservation.

- The revised mission statement is: *"To lead, motivate, and collaborate with Leawood citizens to increase recycling, encourage conservation, and promote 'green' mobility options in the City of Leawood."*

Paula Cornwell made a motion to approve this change. Julie Cain seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Topic: HOA Meeting – All

The HOA meeting date is February 11th and will again be held at the Lodge at Ironwoods Park. Paula Cornwell will have a phone conference prior to the holidays and provide a meeting draft agenda and updated assignments.

- Chair Filla will prepare A Year in Review for Mayor Peggy Dunn. What's happened since we met a year ago? What we accomplished the first year. Provide a slide show with pictures from events from Freaky Fall Fest/Hazardous Waste and E-Waste and Shredding, Tomahawk Creek greenway workers in the stream, bicycle friendly, paper bags, etc.
- Chair Filla will announce recycling center tours and potential dates for homes associations.
- Julie Coon will speak about landfills filling up by 2011/2012 and the importance of recycling.
- Julie Cain will provide recycling updates and introduce Ripple Glass recycling. She will provide a map of Ripple Glass locations closest to Leawood.

- Bob Pierson will provide yard waste changes, brown bag information, and Bridging the Gap.
- Camille Croteau will provide hazardous waste information.
- Leslie Alford of the BRWS will speak about stream teams and how everything flows down hill, trash, and the watershed. Rain gardens will also be discussed with assistance from Parks landscape supervisor, Dustin Branick.

Each invite/e-vite will have two (2) complimentary tickets reserved for each homes association for the dinner and 2 drinks with the option to buy an additional ticket per additional guest. This would encourage others to attend and relieve pressure from the budget. These will go out the first week in January.

Marica Putman will update the homes association e-mails. Chris Claxton will create the e-vite. E-vites are preferred because it can keep track of attendees, rejections, acceptances, etc. Bob Pierson will make follow-up calls to the homes association presidents.

Last years' dinner event hosted 110 guests and was held at the Lodge at Ironwoods. Italian cuisine was catered by Jovito's Italian Restaurant.

This year's proposed dinner budget is \$1,500 (\$15 per ticket). The proposed caterer is Gates BBQ (Leawood business). There is a discussion to use real dishes vs. paper goods. Outcome has not been decided.

Suggested vendor booths:

- Ripple Glass ~ Julie Cain
- Bridging the Gap
- Bicycle Friendly Community ~ Brian Anderson, Alicia Jennings
- Elite Cycle ~ promoting their new store in Mission Farms
- Hazardous Waste ~ Camille Croteau
- Blue River Watershed ~ Leslie Alford
- Rain Gardens ~ Dustin Branick

Recycling Update

Chair Filla received a call from Mark Nichols, a junior Eagle Scout and a Blue Valley student seeking information for a recycling project. He contacted Bob Pierson, requesting glass recycling information and our homes associations. He was also featured in the last Leawood magazine and he would like to give back to the community. Chair Filla suggested that he be invited to our homes association meeting, or if interested join the stream team or bicycle friendly committee as they meet as needed. If he's interested in getting involved with the green committee and knows that we meet in the morning, and if we want a student on the committee we will need to change the meeting time. Julie Cain pointed out that this involvement with the committee will give him great experience for college scholarships etc.

Bob Pierson shares that he had been by a ripple glass container. It was filled and people were leaving glass outside the container. A copy of other Ripple Glass locations should be given out at the homes associations. Julie Cain mentioned that she spoke of that to the City Council and they want these enclosed on three sides. The discussion did not go any further. A lot of people are concerned about how big it was, where it is going to be, and whether it was going to be sheltered.

The group talked about the latest event and how we can encourage recycling by promoting incentives to recycle. Ideas include a recycling clause in our contracts; offer a rebate or discounts for those companies who do recycle, etc. Studies have shown that attendance is higher for those who manage events that recycle. Chris Claxton will discuss possible options with Kim Curran for future events and for more of our indoor facilities.

Re-Circulation Day Updates

Bob Pierson spoke with JR and shares that most cities will have an all-city garage sale day one weekend and then a recirculation day the following weekend. Paula Cornwell suggests encouraging HOAs to organize their own recirculation day. Chair Filla suggested this would be an opportunity for Mark Nichols to get involved with a great project. Have him meet with Jim Twigg, somebody from the city, Deffenbaugh and JR to meet, discuss options, research different homes association contracts, and brainstorm after hours. Cindy Thesing suggests that each homes association have their pickups in sections so it does not overwhelm trash collectors. You have to break it up in the city or they will be overwhelmed. As suggested by Jim Twigg from an earlier meeting, the committee can also contact the Salvation Army, Goodwill, and Federation of the Blind to provide trucks to receive charitable donations. Deffenbaugh can be contacted for an appliance pick up. Cindy Thesing will check with Freecycle, a website that one can post a donation and people can receive items for free. Great for those who like to recycle metal.

Cindy Thesing suggested that information be organized prior to the announcement at the HOA meeting. Chair Filla will check with Scott Lambers, City Administrator about the scavenger law.

Chair Filla points out that Leawood and Leawood Estates provides a natural boundary south of I-435. Confirm the pickup date and the HOAs can back up and put their stuff out even if it's a month ahead of time and they can do their garage sales, etc. Figure out the logistics of when you are going to have a pickup and coordinate with the charitable groups and let them become back-up providers if they want to have garage sales in front of it. Town & Country picks up a majority of north side and Deffenbaugh has more of the south side. The biggest factor is who is going to do the pickup.

Bob Pierson questions if there is a cost factor. Chair Filla states that the committee has a \$10,000 budget for 2010. Set aside is \$1500 for the dinner and \$500 for recognition, leaving a balance of only \$8,000 for the year.

Rain Garden Updates

A rain garden display will be at the HOA meeting. Chris Claxton, Marica Putman, and Dustin Branick will provide pictures for the display. Chair Filla shares that rain barrels are currently not allowed in Leawood. This was discovered when they were putting a stormwater page together. Council and staff are working on changing that and until it's officially changed, it's good to have specifications as there are no rules right now. It has been decided that the committee focus on rain gardens and not rain barrels because of staff/council inquiries concerning rain barrels.

Chair Filla clarifies that rain barrels in terms of actually taking enough water to make a difference. It doesn't. Rain barrels are good to conserve water in case of a drought and it's better to water your plants with non-chlorinated water.

Parking Lots to Park Info

Chair Filla attended a basic discussion about "Parking Lots to Parks" sponsored by MARC. For stormwater, in a Portland residential area, they took a wide street lane where there was minimal street parking, created a jut out, and planted a rain garden. This allowed water to flow through it. This asphalt is acting as a filter for your water and the rain garden is acting as a green space to cool off. People are very excited about it. As soon as it was put in, everybody said they wanted their street to look like that.

Another opportunity to listen to a UMKC Civil Engineer professor on January 28th. He will be speaking about impervious surfaces. A sample of pervious concrete is at I-Lan Park. It is not for high impact streets but can be used for parking lots.

In National Geographic, nobody was able to understand global warming until this professor came up with a bathtub example, which is having water coming into a bathtub faster than it can drain – what happens? This is what is happening with global warming. 30% of global warming is being absorbed in the soil and green space. 25 % is absorbed into the ocean. But that's the problem. The rest is not being absorbed as fast enough as we are creating it. We're creating twice as much as CO2 as we can absorb.

Bicycle Friendly Community Updates

Brian Anderson is waiting for the park board to meet and then he will be able to set up the new committee. He has done research with other cities that have bicycle committees on how they are set up and organized and has a rough draft for this.

Julie Cain asked if we received our designation. Brian Anderson announced that we did not get a designation on our first try but; he did receive feedback and the top two suggestions for improvement. It was recommended that a decision from the council be considered for any new street or major rehab. This included streets to be built or

rehabbed as multi-use (walking, cycling, and cars into consideration). They want this as policy and in writing. Do your best – where economically feasible it said. They are trying to be fair.

Chair Filla requests that a staff report be made for the council on this topic and she can make a motion to council to refer it to Public Works for consideration for any new street or major rehab to be multi-use. Public Works has to be the entity, as they are spending the money that would have to debate the design.

Brian Anderson continues that the other recommendation is to contact the league of American Cyclist Trainers and start offering classes for people to learn how to ride in traffic and providing events around it.

The group discusses the strategic and tactical advice. Providing a safety city geared to bicycle safety. Parks and Recreation provides helmets at a cost that is relatively inexpensive so that the children would wear them. No profits are made for this reason.

Chris Claxton suggested working with Elite Cycle to provide an educational message or research thus providing interest in his store as a result.

The group discusses other booth ideas such as safe rides to school, using visual aids to promote general awareness, providing additional brochures, etc. Composting and rain barrels (if approved) can be projects for next year. It's been noted that people who do recycle are recycling more, those who don't recycle are still not recycling. It's an educational or informational problem. The group discusses their own city's trash pickup policies, recycling methods, bin requirements, etc.

Chair Filla shared that the biggest impediment is that people are not able to get a recycle blue bucket or they are too lazy to get one. She has given away three (3) of them. Can't buy them but they can be rented. Have trash services offers bins as needed. Homes association has a payback of 3 years for each bin. Or \$75 if they want to own it and if someone runs over it, they will replace it. Choose the size you want.

Cindy Thesing lives in Waterford subdivision. Wilshire Place residents received two rolling bins, one for recycle and one for trash when they redid their contract. She wanted Mayor Dunn to ride through the neighborhood to see the cleanliness and what it does to the city is unbelievable. It was very neat and consistent. Trash is not blowing everywhere and looking like a war zone in her subdivision. She was not able to get her homes association to switch.

Chris Claxton informs all that she is a visual learner and suggested photos with caption like, "Do you want your neighborhood to look like this?" Take pictures of the messy trash and not the house.

It would be great to have Town and Country and Deffenbaugh provide a booth for questions or allow residents to purchase additional bins/containers.

Chair Filla put out a challenge to every homes association. As you are doing contracts you will move forward to this model and display pictures of Wilshire Place. Cindy Thesing suggested rewarding Wilshire Place a "Neat Trash Day Award".

Bob Pierson added an interesting note. Prairie Village is making this mandatory. Everyone has to buy huge recycling bins, switching to brown paper bags, and if you put out extras, you are charged for it.

The group discusses that brown paper bags are hard to find. Members are citing that some brands are better than others. However, if a homes association isn't picking them up, it's a mute point. Bob Pierson and Cindy Thesing will schedule another meeting to discuss the issues further.

Julie Cain reiterated by noting that they had one (1) HOA meeting in the past. We should simplify what we said last year. We're not moving forward until we got the first message across.

Chair Filla suggested that Julie Coon repeat her message of last year, provide visual aids such as boards with tips and tricks of using brown paper bags, landfills, recycling, how to get those containers, how to rent them, and aim to look like Wilshire Place as a city role model. Also providing pictures for the Year End Review as a slide show to entertain and show awareness of the issues at hand for the residents as people are eating and drinking. And it can be played again at close and as people are going through the booths.

E-Waste and Shredding Update

- Church of the Resurrection was awesome
- Plenty of volunteers
- 80,000 lbs collected, filled 5 semi-trailers
- 50% more prepared
- Minimal wait
- 500 Black and Veatch bags were given away
- Used only 1 tent, the 2nd tent was not used
- Considering a northern location next time and teaming up with Roland Park and Merriam
- Very successful

Meeting adjourns ends at 9:00 am.

Next meeting is January 7th at 7:30 am.

Minutes transcribed by Marica Putman, Administrative Graphics Technician, Parks & Recreation
GITCF 12-3-09.