

Sustainability Advisory Board

October 10th, 2019 MINUTES

🚩 Welcome, Introductions, and News

- Members greet.

🚩 The SAB meeting came to order

- Lisa Harrison motioned to approve the amended agenda. Kathy Corbin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Alicia Jennings motioned to approve the July 11, 2019 minutes. Bob Pierson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

🚩 New Committee Member

- Chair Sipple welcomes and introduces Dr. Shelley Bhattacharya to the group who was nominated by Julie Cain.
- Dr. Shelley Bhattacharya is a Geriatrician, a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine at KU Med and a member of their sustainability committee. She hails from San Diego, California and grew up with a green, water saving mentality with a great passion for recycling.

🚩 Guest: Becky Fast, Johnson County Commissioner, First District

- Chair Sipple welcomes and introduces Commissioner Becky Fast. She is the County's liaison to the Solid Waste Management Committee and the Regional Air Quality Committee.
- Neighboring counties are working on a regional gas/carbon emissions inventory to be done in the next few months, providing a baseline for the area. Johnson County did one in 2011.
- She will email a copy of the Solid Waste Management Plan and encourages everyone to view the commercial section. Seventy-five percent of the landfill is filled with sources from construction, debris and the commercial sector. Residential has done well in reducing waste. The landfill in Lee's Summit's recently closed and Raytown's trash is sent to Sedalia. There's 23 years left on the current landfill and that life needs to be increased.
- In the next 5 years, haulers from commercial sectors will need to be licensed. Multi-family are a huge component of dumping. Licensing will allow the County to monitor, have a say in what is being dumped and how much of it is going into the landfill. The County gives funding to the city via CARS. CARS funding allows the City to use recycled granite on certain roads. She cites examples of how they could be recycling most of these items. She also explains the process of people sorting due to small contamination rate that is acceptable or it's returned. Buyers for recycled items are getting harder to find and they are losing money.
- The City does have many ordinances and codes for new construction. LEED certification for new construction is voluntary at this time. Certain levels of LEED certification require waste to be hauled, recycled and more. Kathy Corbin is SAB's recycling expert. A brief discussion follows concerning green incentives and flexibilities for developers. The carbon free footprint of the new airport was discussed.
- Food waste is being evaluated at the County. They have many ideas such as an organic food waste drop off or developing infrastructure for food waste. This committee supports the food waste recycling at one of the elementary school cafeteria and at the HOA Sustainability Meeting. A brief discussion follows with a possibility of a joint meeting with Prairie Village.

🚩 Master Calendar – Meeting Frequency

- Dr. Shelley Bhattacharya is a practicing physician who is not able to meet on Thursdays. Members discuss days to meet. It was decided that Chair Sipple will send out the notice with a vote to pick the next meeting date. Currently, November 14th is the next meeting date until another day is confirmed. A request was made to have a year's worth of meeting dates chosen be sent out.

ATTENDEES

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

- Chuck Sipple, Chair**
- Lisa Harrison, Vice-Chair**
- Dr. Shelley Bhattacharya**
- Erin Chacey**
- Mark Ciaramitaro**
- Kathy Corbin**
- Alicia Jennings**
- Bob Pierson**
- Jim Potter**
- Bill Schutte**
- Truss Tyson**

- Chris Claxton**
Parks & Recreation Director
- Brian Anderson**
Parks Superintendent
- Marica Putman**
Administrative Graphics Tech
- Scott Gamerl**
Outdoor Education Supervisor
- Kevin Jeffries**
President and CEO
Leawood Chamber of Commerce

Guest

- Becky Fast, Johnson County Commissioner, First District**

✚ Climate Coalition – Alicia Jennings

- Chair Sipple would like to purchase *Drawdown* by Paul Hawken for every member. Members will be using this book for the next year or two. He will talk about this to Chris Claxton.
- Debra Filla, Councilmember and former SAB Chair, met with significant people at Johnson County Community College to talk about climate change. She made a summary presentation of what was discussed. There will be several recommendations coming forth from the climate change group that municipalities should be considering going forward.
- Alicia Jennings attended the Metro KC Climate Action Summit. It was hosted by the Metro Kansas City Climate Action Coalition, organized and designed by Roeland Park Mayor Mike Kelly and Shawnee Councilwoman Lindsey Constance. There were many incredible speakers there including Paul Hawken author of *Drawdown*. The most important thing to do is to spread the education to our elected leaders – local, state and national.
 - Alicia Jennings' notes:
 - Climate change is going to happen. To stop it is to turn around and go back. The need to act quickly is now.
 - Poorest areas are the most affected.
 - Rural agility. Too much heat, water, etc. Unable to predict a crop's outcomes and system failures.
 - Speed is justice. People who are dragging their feet are the ones profiting.
 - A Brigadier General Christopher King from Leavenworth spoke about national security. He announced that climate change is the largest threat to our national security. It threatens peace and security. There will be a scarcity of water, deforestation and a lack of land due to heat issues in the future. This denies human needs of food, clothing, and shelter. She explains what is happening in other countries.
 - Mayor Quinton Lucas of Kansas City, Missouri is proposing all bus rides as free. It will be change the culture of ridership. All buses will switch to all electric in the future. Kansas City, Missouri subsidizes parking lots on some of the apartment housing. It's earning approximately \$10,000,000 which can be used to pay for the rides, to cut down on vehicles, and increase ridership. Parking places are expensive. It is approximately \$30,000 per spot for covered parking. Similar to our uncovered parking spots the cost is approximately \$8,000. A brief discussion follows.
 - Things we can do:
 - Food waste. We waste 40% of our food. Go to a plant diet.
 - Be earnest of rain and wood forest protection.
 - Educate women in 3rd world countries. An educated woman has 2.2 children. An uneducated woman has 8 children. Melinda Gates has a book out called *The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World*.
 - Personal conservation. We all to need conserve energy and be extremely careful of the way we live. Missouri is predicted to have food shortages in 8 years.
 - Mayor Peggy Dunn and the City Council have directed this committee to review all of the recommendations that are coming from this commission. This committee is to decide the best way for the City of Leawood to take these recommendations and go forward. Again, this committee cannot mandate, only educate and communicate. The City Council can mandate by approving ordinances.

✚ Tree Committee – Lisa Harrison

- Their main goal is to educate Leawood residents about the changes to the tree ordinances. They are using Nextdoor app and through articles in local publications.
- They have their own tree committee webpage and links to share the new tree guidelines and more.
- Truss Tyson has been battling Japanese Beetles in his neighborhood which are spreading fast. They eat the leaves, making them look like lace. Scott Gamerl suggested using Sevin. He also told everyone not to buy the traps as it will attract them even more. Members are encouraged to take pics, make treatment notes, or news to share and send it to the committee.

Bike/Walk Leawood – Alicia Jennings

- The South Loop is almost ready. Signs are similar to the North Loop green signs and will be installed during the cold months and be ready to go next spring. The South Loop starts at mile 0 by the swimming pool in Leawood City Park where the City plans to construct a formal trailhead area. Currently plans call for the South Loop to extend to 133rd Street, but eventually the route will go into Ironwoods Park.
- Members are trying to find a solution to eliminate speeding on the trails. Looking into speed signs, pets being on the right side of the trail, lane markings near curves, etc.
- Bike/Walk to School events at Brookwood and Corinth was successful last Wednesday. Brookwood had a band. The mayor and a few officials were present. Cure of ARS had theirs yesterday. Officer Phil Goff and his partner were out there for traffic control. They did a wonderful job.

Update on Elimination of Plastic Bags – Alicia Jennings

- Kathy Corbin and Alicia Jennings continue their research on plastic bags. Alicia Jennings contacted Kroger in Lawrence and learned that they order 6 billion bags per year for their 2800 grocery stores. They are phasing out plastic bags by 2025. They have already phased out their bags in Washington and Oregon. They have been educating everyone that there will be no plastic bags for checkout starting in 2025. They will have thin clear bags for wet meats and vegetables.
- Kathy Corbin heard that 100 billion bags are used in the U.S. per year.
- Members discuss taking this issue to council for approval. Chair Sipple is concerned about Leawood merchants being handicapped with such an ordinance and competing with neighbors across state line. Scott Gamerl reminded members about the loss of revenue that grocery stores and gas stations took when they eliminated tobacco sales to minors. Lawrence is considering charging 16 cents per paper and plastic bag. Other shopping stores like Macy's have thicker plastic bags that are prohibited in several cities. Members discuss it further.
- Companies who have changed to paper bags:
 - Hallmark (98% green)
 - LL Bean
 - Trader Joe's
 - Leawood Liquid
 - O'Neill's
 - Panera
 - McDonald's has gone to paper but still has more work to do
- Chair Sipple would like to follow in the footsteps of what Wichita is doing and have a task force that the City Council would approve. He does not think the committee should reach out to major merchants like Price Chopper, Hen House, etc. without Council authorization. He believes that the directive to study plastic bags should come from City Council. A task force to interview a lot merchants and residents, on both sides of the issue, to come up what's workable and what's not, in order to improve our carbon and waste footprint. He feels the City Council would go for that. He asked if Alicia Jennings could find out how Wichita is approaching this, getting their work plan and input from various stakeholders involved. She will ask Mimi Moffat, who is familiar with going-ons in Wichita.
- Kathy Corbin shares that there are 8 states that have prohibited plastic bags. Stores are charging customers for paper bags. The money collected goes to the city or to the EPA of that state and is used to fund environmental education. Scott Gamerl suggests getting a grant for reusable cloth bags so instead of saying 'you can't use these' say instead, 'why not use these'.
- Scott Gamerl will scan Alicia Jennings Breckinridge's 10 page ordinance document and send it out to members via email.
- Erin Chacey mentions a documentary called 'Bag It'. It explains the pros and cons of the plastic bag single use vs. the cloth bag. She discovered that a cloth bag must be used a lot of times for the resources to balance out. Alicia Jennings mentioned that the climate damage cost to clean it up is 32 cents per bag and it kills the animals.
- Some cities are eliminating a drive-thru. However, what has the most impact in Leawood are the lawn care services, chemicals, and trash pick-up, etc. It's actually ruining the environment with the runoff of chemicals. Becky Fast suggested reducing some of the lawn by converting some of the grass with native plants or vegetables, etc.

✚ Discussion – Theme of HOA Summit

- After much discussion, the theme is: Practical Lawns and Sustainable Landscaping – Residential and Common Areas
- Chair Sipple and Mark Ciaramitaro spoke to Dennis Patton, Horticulture Agent of K-State and Johnson County Extension, and he has agreed to speak at the summit. He is highly regarded. Dennis Patton also provided the name of another speaker too if needed.
- Homeowners should be pushing for fewer square feet of turf and more native planting. Dr. Shelley Bhattacharya will send Vice-Chair Harrison a list of non-native trees that are great for this area. Members discuss common areas and what to plant in them.
 - Potential topics need to be decided upon by mid-January for the guide
 - Spraying for fleas, ticks, and mosquitos
 - Native plant suggestions
 - Video links for HOAs
 - Sustainable talking points
 - Backyard composting
- Other potential speakers from the agricultural university in Manhattan and the Land Institute. Alicia Jennings will contact them to see if they would be interested as speakers or vendors at the summit.
- Members discuss current lawn issues, pesticides, chemicals, and more. Scott Gamerl can provide materials on pollinators and butterflies. Bill Schutte suggests focusing on healthier lawns and common areas. Members briefly discussed that booths that are not representing the theme be eliminated to provide space for other vendors that do.

✚ Leawood Rotary Club

- Vice-Chair Harrison invites all to the Adopt-A-Trail event on November 16th from 9 am -12 pm. Please meet by The Walking Woman sculpture across from Waterway on Tomahawk Creek Parkway.

✚ Adjourn

▪ Upcoming Meetings

- **Next potential SAB meeting is November 14th or the 15th. To be determined by email vote.**
- Future meeting dates in 2020: For now: January 9th, March 12th, and April 9th until confirmed.