

Sustainability Advisory Board

January 10th, 2020 MINUTES

🚩 Welcome, Introductions, and News

- Members greet. Guests are welcomed and introduced.

🚩 The SAB meeting came to order

- Vice-Chair Harrison makes a motion to approve the amended Agenda. Bill Schutte second. The motion passed unanimously.
- Vice-Chair Harrison makes a motion to approve the amended November 15, 2019 minutes. Bill Schutte second. The motion passed unanimously.

🚩 Master Calendar – Meeting Frequency & Fridays?

- Upcoming meetings: February 14 (with WCA Representative), March 13 (with Will Gibson), April 10, June 12, September 11, November 13
- HOA Sustainability Summit: April 16

🚩 HOA Sustainability Summit – April 16 – The Lodge at Ironwoods Park

- Target audience is the HOA officers.
- There are 105 HOAs. Approximately 60-70 of them are active.
- Theme: Practical Lawns and Sustainable Landscaping for Residential and Common Areas.
- Speaker: Will Gibson, Down to Earth KC Services.
- Mark Ciaramitaro and Chair Sipple met with Will Gibson to discuss speaker style, content, focus, and timing. He has a lot of experience with native plants, sustainable landscaping, lawns and common areas, along with visuals of before and after. He appears to be a good fit with our theme. He would like a vendor table.
- Mark Ciaramitaro will invite him to come to the next meeting and do a dry run for the committee.
- Incentives for people who practice sustainability and shout outs during the presentation were discussed.
- Recycling Extravaganza is April 18th at Black & Veatch.
- Members discussed:
 - Vendors and City departments to invite (*Alicia, Erin*)
 - Landscaping plans, revisions, and filing
 - Door prizes, other incentives
 - Grant to schools on behalf of SAB
 - Master Gardener buttons (Dennis Patton's group and Tree Committee members) (*Shelley*)
 - SAB Members to have a button ID
 - Cultural art flyers displayed at a random table
 - Pasta, bread/bread sticks, salad, organic beef are suggested. Bravo's is an option. (*Truss*)
 - Invitations to include HOA landscape officers
 - Utilize next door app
 - Save the Date/Invitations/Database (*Marica, Chuck, Mark*)
 - Call committee and master list

🚩 Trash Haulers to Meet with SAB to discuss Waste Stream

- Moved to February 14th.
- Members to come up with questions.
 - What is the percentage of recycling is diverted to the landfill? And Why?
 - Recycling education programs.
- QR scanners to scan trash to see if it's recyclable.
- KC Compost lids show what can be compostable.

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

- Debra Filla, Council Member
Ward 1**

✚ **Food Waste Composting at Schools**

- This 5 member committee include: SAB members Chair Sipple, Shelley Bhattacharya, and Erin Chacey and Gareth Matthews and Heather Lancaster.
- Gareth Matthews started a composting program at Mission Trail Elementary. His kids has moved on to Leawood Middle School, whom he now represents. Heather Lancaster has taken his place at Mission Trail Elementary.
- They plan to meet this Friday at 11:30 am.
- Chair Sipple and Erin Chacey delivered a \$500 grant to the Principal at Mission Trail Elementary last month. There is more grant money available and can be increased for the next one. Mission Trail Elementary and Leawood Middle School are currently involved in a composting program. This committee is trying to get Blue Valley School District involved in composting.

✚ **Climate Action Coalition for Municipalities – Council Member Debra Filla**

- Debra Filla reviews the website to show this organization's information.
- Vice-Chair Harrison briefly explains the organization's history about how this coalition came to be. Initiated at a regional level by Roeland Park Mayor Mike Kelly and Shawnee Councilwoman Lindsey Constance.
- Deb Filla briefly reviews the summit information from the website. She notes that summit presentations are available to watch online. This was the best run conference she has attended.
- Brian Anderson attended the Climate KC Resiliency Workshop on December 17th, 2019 for a certification class. He reviewed the Climate Action Playbook that featured recommended strategies for local governments to reverse current climate trends. He wrote up the City's progress in a memo which was handed out in this meeting. David Roberts, Public Works, also attended the conference.
 - Parks & Recreation in partnership with other departments have worked in 2 sectors:
Land Use and Transportation.
 - Earn Recognition for Urban Forest Stewardship with a Tree City USA Growth Award
 - Protect and Increase Urban and Suburban Forests
 - Harvest and Utilize High-Value Wood Products from Trees that Must be Removed
 - Remove Invasive Species in Parks and Along Greenways
 - Complete Streets
 - Earn Bicycle-Friendly Community Designation
 - Create Cycling Networks
- Members received a brief summary of the Climate Action Playbook, which has a link at the bottom of the page. She and Vice-Chair Harrison met with Mayor Peggy Dunn and Scott Lambers about this playbook. Five playbooks will be shared to the council at the next meeting. Many are reviewing this book and are deciding what the City can do to make an impact. Currently, the focus has been on recycling. Recommendations can be made to the council.
 - China has taken this leadership role because they had a nuclear winter. If this continues, China cannot grow crops and it would be the demise of a nation. Cannot feed the people without crops.

✚ **Major SAB Initiative - Plastic Bags – Alicia Jennings, Kathy Corbin**

- Alicia Jennings announced that there was a proposal written which was put aside when they recently learned that Prairie Village is interested in joining forces.
- Petroleum/plastic bag lobby representatives have attended Lawrence's meetings and have put a ban on banning plastic bags. Colorado has the same issue. She has worked with Jessie Fuller from Breckinridge on this issue. They have a state law that supersedes each cities' ordinances prohibiting the banning of plastic bags. Breckinridge has raised their cost per bag from 10 cents to 25 cents.
- Becky Fast, Johnson County Commissioner is interested.
- The Proposal:
 - The SAB is asking the City Council for permission to appoint a task force to reduce the impact of single use plastic, specifically beginning with plastic bags. Two million plastic bags are used every minute across the globe. Reducing plastic bag waste has become a world-wide endeavor with many countries, states and cities implementing measures to reduce the environmental impact of plastic bags. In Kansas the cities of Wichita, Lawrence, and Prairie Village are currently pursuing a plastic bag ban or fee and are happy to connect with us to share ideas. We would like the City of

Leawood to lead on this issue to reduce the number of bags littering the community and ending up in landfills.

- Alicia Jennings will share the proposal to members. Chair Sipple would like additional research to learn what neighboring cities are doing. Alicia Jennings will talk to Stephanie Clayton to learn what the state laws are because a different approach may be needed. The next step is to meet with Prairie Village.
- Kathy Corbin shared that cities who charge for bags saw a significant reduction of plastic bag usage. The higher the fee the more effective it is.

Bike/Walk Leawood – Brian Anderson

- Parks Maintenance is currently working in-house with their own resources to build a trail head for City Park. It will advertise, be a meeting point for the start and ending of the North and South Loops. It will have a bottle water filler, made of stone, have a patio, bike repair station, misting post and more.
- Signing of the South Loop has been delayed due to a large project on Mission Road. It features the same length of the North Loop with an out and back route to Ironwoods Park.
- There will be an enhanced rapid fire beacon on the route.
- Mid-American Regional Council and the Kansas City Transportation Authority are working on a project to create a masterplan for regional wayfinding signage to look the same across the 8 county region.
- The kiosk will be completed this summer.
- Trail link app is mentioned. The Johnson County Trail Map and MARC will have updated versions this year and will include the North Loop.

Adjourn

▪ **Upcoming Meetings**

- **Next potential SAB meeting is February 14th, 2020.**
- Tentative future meeting dates in 2020: March 13th, and April 10th, June 12th, September 11th, November 13th.
- HOA Sustainability Summit April 16th.