

## Sustainability Advisory Board

# February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 MINUTES

Streamed via Zoom.

To reduce the likelihood of the spread of COVID-19 the meeting of the Sustainability Advisory Board is being conducted remotely using the Zoom media format and some of the members of the Sustainability Advisory Board may appear remotely. Public comments will not be accepted. City Hall is closed to public access during this meeting, however, the meeting will be livestreamed on YouTube and the public can access the livestream by clicking on [www.leawood.org](http://www.leawood.org).

### Welcome and Introductions

- Members greet.
- [Brian Anderson](#) reads the above zoom statement.

### Approve agenda for today's meeting

- [Bob Pierson](#) makes a motion approve the agenda.
- [Bill Schutte](#) seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Role was taken and approved.

### Discuss Beekeeping Ordinance

- Referred by the City to discuss whether or not beekeeping (apiculture) should be allowed within the city. Currently, beekeeping is not allowed in Leawood.
- [Patty Bennett](#), City Attorney, received a letter from [Diane Lumpkin](#) who is a beekeeper (apiarist). She and her husband are interested in moving to Leawood if they are allowed to keep bees on their property.
- The City Attorney sent out a proposed statute, ordinance, and terms of how it would work. She also sent out a survey to surrounding cities that allowed beekeeping and received their feedback. She noted that:
  - Some statutes are quite old.
  - Beekeeping has been allowed in surrounding cities for many years.
- [Scott Gamerl](#) contacted [Dennis Patton](#), Horticulture Agent of Johnson County Extension to briefly discuss the pros, cons, and safety issues of beekeeping.
  - [Dennis Patton](#) attended the Prairie Village city hall meeting on that ordinance. Attendance was large and he did not remember anyone speaking against the ordinance. He noted that Prairie Village is the last city in Johnson County that has adopted the ordinance.
    - As for safety issues, he has never received a phone call from any Johnson County resident complaining about hobby beekeeping.
    - He did say that some of the plots in Leawood probably would not fit the ordinance based on the size where their house sits. The proposed ordinance limits the distance between the hives and the property lines, the adjoining properties, etc.
    - He is in favor of beekeeping.
- Meeting members are in favor of beekeeping. They do have some concerns in regards to the proposed ordinance and will be seeking additional resources prior to their recommendation to the City Council.
  - Members discussed the following:
    - The proposed ordinance borrows heavily from Overland Park and Prairie Village. [Bill Schutte](#) noted that the ordinance varies among the cities of Lenexa, Olathe, Overland

### ATTENDEES

4:00 pm • Streamed via Zoom

- [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**
- [Ashlee Tomasic](#)  
Assistant City Attorney

Park, Prairie Village and Shawnee. All allow beekeeping but only 4 requires a permit and/or variations in regards to regulations, permits, licenses, and citations.

- Members discuss getting a neighbor's permission for beekeeping.
  - Overland Park allows a neighbor to give permission and then take it back in some instances. The same language is in Leawood's proposal.
- Members discuss property setbacks researched by Bill Schutte.
  - Leawood's proposed ordinance is 50 feet from your neighbor's property line.
  - Lenexa is 50 feet.
  - Olathe is 15 feet.
  - Overland Park is 25 feet.
  - Prairie Village is 10 feet, requiring a fence of 3 ½ feet tall and a 6 foot flyway.
  - Shawnee is 35 feet.
- Setback is from your neighbor's house to the hive.
  - Leawood is 100 feet unless permission is granted by the neighbor which can be revoked by the neighbor. Unpopular with the members.
  - Lenexa is 100 feet but it's unqualified and you do not have to get permission from your neighbor.
  - Olathe does not touch the subject.
  - Overland Park is 75 feet.
  - Prairie Village – no reference.
  - Shawnee – no reference.
- Public street setback.
  - Leawood is 100 feet if we have this ordinance.
  - Lenexa and Overland Park is 100 feet.
  - Olathe, Prairie Village, and Shawnee does not deal with the issue.
- Safety / Protection Concerns.
  - Erin Chacey learned that there is a number of people keeping bees on their Leawood property from Joli Winer of Heartland Honey, Spring Hill, Kansas. How would they be addressed? Would they be grandfathered? She will contact her sources for beekeeping, troubleshooting, and mentoring.
  - For safety concerns. A city in Oregon or Washington noted that keeping a path of 10 – 12 feet away when mowing is enough to ensure that bees do not take issue with lawn mowers by feeling threaten.
  - Vice-Chair Harrison texted Stu Sharp, a local Leawood farmer who has bees. He was asked if he mowed around his hives. He said yes and to be careful of blowing hot mower engine exhaust on the bees front door which makes them mad. When he mows, he is careful of which direction everything's facing.
  - Chair Sipple closes out the lawn mowing issue by letting the homeowner choose the setback in his/her yard. He does not want to mandate what a person does on their own property. The concern is of neighbors, whether to have a 25 or 50 foot setback and is it enough to protect the bees' area. Members can weigh in and make a recommendation to the City Attorney who can draft a document for the City Council.
  - Erin Chacey will talk to Joli Winer for her opinion for a reasonable setback and hive type. Bill Schutte and Vice-Chair Harrison will also ask their sources the same.

- Fence / Flyaway / Type of Hive Concerns.
  - Members discuss shrubs, brushes, and flowers of at least 6 feet tall and within 10 feet of the hive to keep bees in the air rather than close to the grass where kids would be playing.
  - Scott Gamerl asked if a fence permit was needed if the city required a flight path fence and the answer was yes. He also asked if it could be married into a hobby or urban beekeeping permit rather than a fence. Unknown at this time.
  - Erin Chacey says her beekeeper says 42 inches (4 foot fence).
  - Scott Gamerl pointed out that there is a specific length drop hive. If someone has Warre or a top load hive box, they would be out of ordinance. He described the common boxes as Warre or Langstroth. Supplies are becoming very short and hard to find so they are going to other types to start their beekeeping journey. He will contact Dennis Patton for his suggestions.
  - Ashlee Tomasic noted that the document is heavily borrowed heavily from Lenexa and Shawnee hive requirements. She reached out to the Northeastern Beekeeping Association for input and has not received a reply. She can certainly work with a beekeeper on a type of hive. She also noted anyone that had bees and was serious about it, had taken classes and were maintaining them the correct way.
    - No one has said any bad things about any aspect of beekeeping or any problems.
    - It is important to have some kind of barrier up tall enough so that the bees have to go above that.
    - For setback, err on further than closer. They went to the higher end of the setback so that there was not a concern with getting too close to other people's properties.
    - Lenexa's 50 feet ordinance is much older, prevented people from having a hive, and the setbacks were difficult. It is on their "to do" list for revision. They recognize they need to draw back less than 50 feet.
  - See setback is from your neighbor's house to the hive listed previously.
  - Chair Sipple proposes 25 feet from the property line. Bill Schutte and Vice-Chair Harrison agrees. Erin Chancy would like to speak with beekeepers about their experiences and would prefer not to make a decision today.
    - Vice-Chair Harrison does not want to require a fence, allowing it to be closer to the property line.
    - Bill Schutte does not like the 10 feet property line in Prairie Village either.
    - Chair Sipple suggest 25 and 75 and no requirement of neighbors. If there is an issue, the police may be involved without neighbor revoking permission in a situation/dispute.
      - Ashlee Tomasic explains that if they take out the language of this section, that no one can ever have anything closer than 75 feet. At 76 feet that is all fine. Even if neighbors agrees, leave it as his neighbor agrees, yes can have it 5 feet from my property and then there is a falling out, they can revoke that permission then bees just need to go to 75 feet, which is what is allowed in the code. This is really just permissive to allow the hive closer, not revoke the ability to have bees all together. It is just input only as part of the special pet permit process. It is one of the factors for consideration. No neighbor can say I do not want bees and then have the absolute determination as to.
      - Erin Chancy has similar concerns and suggested that Ashlee Tomasic contact Jennifer Parker Burris, a master beekeeper in north Leawood for information and recommendations.
    - Chair Sipple is okay with water within 10 feet of the hive.

- Bill Schutte added to check the various ordinances as there seems to be difference between what that flyway consists of. Some state it is wall, some a fence or a combination of a wall, fence, vegetation, and shrubbery. Chair Sipple prefers something natural flyway and preferred 6 feet.
- Vice-Chair Harrison stated that requiring a permit is verifying education and an opportunity for us to ask questions.
  - Dumb beekeepers = bees do not last long.
- Chair Sipple announced that if there is a complaint, that person would be made aware of what is allowed and to please follow the rules. He suggested that members meet in three weeks so that Vice-Chair Harrison, Erin Chancy, Scott Gamerl, and Ashlee Tomasic have time to contact their sources, sharing their skills and ideas of beekeeping.

#### ✚ **Community Service Opportunity on the Blue River**

- Vice-Chair Harrison found this opportunity on the Johnson County recycle page.
- “Get Your Hands Dirty for a Good Cause, Help Missouri Stream Teams”.
  - A fun hands-on field activity for everyone. Children and teenagers invited.
  - 31st Annual Project Blue River Rescue – taking place on March 27 from 8 am – noon.
    - Lakeside Nature Center (supply pickup only before heading to cleanup site that will be assigned)
    - 4701 E. Gregory Blvd, KC MO
    - Register as an individual or group. Current health protocols must be followed. Masks and social distancing required. Dress for weather, bring your own water. Questions, contact 816.269.6835.
- Keep Kansas City streams beautiful. The Blue River is east of Ironwoods Park and runs through that neighborhood and goes under I-435. She can share the link if interested.
- Chair Sipple, Vice-Chair Harrison and a few Rotarians have been picking up trash along 135<sup>th</sup> and 133<sup>rd</sup> to try to make a difference. Kathy Corbin mentions that Mission Road is trashy south of 135<sup>th</sup>-143<sup>rd</sup>.

#### ✚ **Save the Date – Town Center Electronics Recycling Event**

- Chair Sipple and Vice-Chair Harrison is working together with Town Center to have an electronics recycling event.
- Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup>. Probably 8 am – 12 pm.
- Volunteers are needed to assist police in lining up cars and unloading stuff.

#### ✚ **Adjourn**

- **Upcoming Meetings**
  - **Next SAB meeting is TBD. Proposed for the week of March 22, 2021 to button up the beekeeping recommendation.**
  - Future meeting dates: TBD