

Sustainability Advisory Board

January 28th, 2022 MINUTES

Council Chambers / Streamed via Zoom

This meeting is in the Council Chambers for those to attend in-person and via Zoom for online attendees. The meeting will be livestreamed on YouTube and the public can access the livestream by clicking on www.leawood.org.

📌 Welcome and Introductions

- [Chair Sipple](#) announces the in-person and recording of the meeting.
- Members greet. [Bill Blessing](#) and [Dr. Sonya Evans](#), potential SAB candidates, are asked to introduce themselves. The mayor has recommended these candidates for membership with City Council to approve in February and appointed in March.

📌 Approve April 30, 2021 minutes

- [Vice-Chair Harrison](#) makes a motion approve the minutes.
- [Alicia Jennings](#) seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

📌 Update on Electronics Recycling Event – July 23 – Lisa / Chuck

- The recycling event will be located at the north lot of Town Center Plaza between Macy's and Hereford House. It will be similar to the previous event of two years ago.
- Saturday, July 23 from 8 am-12 pm (noon).
- Contracted with Midwest Recycling Center (MRC). Partnering 50/50 with Town Center management who has a great marketing team. This event is in the Parks, Recreation, & Arts Program Guide. It will be in the newsletter and sent out via emails as the event draws closer. Members are asked to post this information around July 1st to get the word out.
- The Police asked to join this event by adding paper shredding. They will pick up the tab. This will need be coordinated with the recycling event.
- [Dr. Shelley Bhattacharya](#) mentioned that shredded paper is not recyclable. [Kathy Corbin](#) suggested composting it. This is a great idea and great advertisement for the event. [Kathy Corbin](#) and [Alicia Jennings](#) will contact composting companies to pick up the shredded paper.
- [Alicia Jennings](#) suggested a bike rodeo at the event. If allowed, the rodeo will need be located elsewhere due to heavy traffic or be its own event at another date and time. Town Center Plaza still has shoppers or salon service patrons that would like to park closer to their shops. A possible location for the paper shredding is the City Hall parking lot.

📌 Update on Bike Committee – Brian / Alicia

- [Brian Anderson](#) introduces himself to incoming members.
- Bike/Walk Leawood is notifying members to meet next week.
- He will add the bike rodeo suggestion as an agenda item. He will ask Police if they are available to assist.
- The bike hub at Leawood City Park is under construction as part of the aquatic center construction.
 - Shelter package is expected by the end of the next month.
 - Footings are poured and graded out at the site.
 - The multi-purpose room for special events / parties will have accessible exterior restrooms and close to the bike hub.
 - Construction is on track to be finished by May 2. There has been no serious impacts or delays with an exception of a walk-in freezer.
- Trail projects. The trail from Roe to Tomahawk Creek Parkway. The contractor has submitted his findings and it is being reviewed and approved by the City. They will start moving dirt in March. There are trail

ATTENDEES

7:30 am • Council Chambers /
Streamed via Zoom

- Chuck Sipple, Chair**
- Lisa Harrison, Vice-Chair**
- Dr. Shelley Bhattacharya**
- Erin Chacey**
- Mark Ciaramitaro**
- Kathy Corbin (Zoom)**
- 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

- Invited Guest**
- Bill Blessing (Zoom)**
- Dr. Sonya Evans (Zoom)**

improvements at Ironwoods Park. They will dredge and get the silt out of the pond. They did design work to the creek so that when the creek was high, the excess water would spill over and fill the pond up so that it would be at regular elevation and not get low. Instead, it actually slowed the stream down and allowed the silt to settle out quickly. They will fix this issue and remove the low water crossing. There will be an elevated pedestrian bridge. [Brian Anderson](#) answered member questions.

- He added the South Loop to MARC's Regional Bikeway Map. It is a route from Gezer Park to Ironwoods Park and comes back, and the finishing part of 143rd Street to State Line Road.
- An excellent idea from [Bill Blessing](#) is to create a West Loop, trail only route, using a portion of Indian Creek trail and Tomahawk Creek trail to form a loop that would go west into Overland Park and then come back south through I-Lan park and then at bike hub at City Park. [Brian Anderson](#) contacted Overland Park's Parks personnel and they are open to the idea and consider it to be a great addition. They are willing to participate and pay for signage. They also discussed using MARC's new regional signage. They will talk more about getting the route signed and developed after the bike hub is up and running.
- A question was brought up about using pandemic relief money. He is not aware of any or how much monies was eligible or received by the City.
- [Chair Sipple](#) inquired if he was planning an event for the opening of the bike hub with groups taking a ride to on both loops. Nothing has been planned as of yet.
- [Dr. Shelley Bhattacharya](#) inquired if there was any progress on replacing or limiting the plastic bags at the waste stations along the park trails and subdivisions. [Brian Anderson](#) mentioned that they buying less plastic bags by securing the box better. The cost of the biodegradable bags are too costly. He will look into having boxes for people to put in their bread bags, etc. for others to use per [Dr. Shelley Bhattacharya](#)'s suggestion. There are approximately 20 waste stations. These bags are not compostable. Subdivisions are managed by their HOAs and not by the City.

Update on Tree Committee – Vice-Chair Harrison

- They have been meeting every 3-4 months and mostly via Zoom.
- Finished up an Arbor Day poster contest thanks to volunteer resident [Debbi Adams](#).
- Thanks to [Dr. John Kinney](#) and [Thad Carver](#) for improving the tree committee's information section on the City's website and working with [Ross Kurz](#), Information Services Director. Subjects include best practices for trees, best trees to plant for this region, invasive species, etc.

Meeting Dates and Times – Chair Sipple

- He received feedback that 7:30 am is not the best meeting time.
- He struggles with quorum. There are eleven members, soon to be thirteen. Quorum must be achieved to conduct business such as voting. They are not able to vote without a quorum.
- Members present availabilities:
 - Jim – lunch – 11:30 am – 1 pm
 - Alicia – flexible
 - Mark – mornings or at 4:00 / 4:30 pm
 - Bill S – flexible
 - Lisa – morning for an hour or at 4:30 pm
 - Kathy – flexible
 - Bill B – noon or afternoon
 - Dr. Sonya – flexible
 - Dr. Shelley – Mondays & Fridays between 9 am – 2 pm (lunch)

Update on the Community Garden Program – Brian Anderson

- They were able to maintain the site despite the Fire Station construction. The program is available for another year at the same location of the old city hall on Lee Blvd.
- An area that staff is interested in developing for community garden locations is:
 - Along Lee Boulevard, across from the waste water treatment plant, the land west of the cell tower site is city owned. The park staff like this area because it is centrally located, large enough for plenty of garden space, maybe have fruit trees, etc., a shed, storage, and composting.
 - If the site was lost due to construction, these other sites were considered:

- Presbyterian Church at 89th and State Line. They talked to them about using some of their property for gardens. They would have to upgrade their parking lot for ADA accessibility.
- Ironwoods Park is similar. The gardens would have to go in the developed land portion otherwise the wildlife would be too destructive. Water is not available and it would have to be fenced really well. The site between the nature center and the maintenance garage has no parking nearby, are underneath power lines, soil would have to be amended, and it has a sloped ground. Those are some of the reasons why this site was not recommended.
- Water is available for Lee Boulevard and Mission Road through an existing irrigation systems for the trees that were installed along the road.
- Future site of the new parks department building at Kenneth Road is a possible location. Employee parking area will be underneath power lines. They can look at space to the east of the parking lot. Chair Sipple believes that there is some benefit to have a garden space near a city facility where there's people nearby. There's protection against pilfering and vandalism which happens when nobody's there. Dr. Shelley Bhattacharya mentions that it is great for sustainability to be using existing structures such as the parking lot and water lines. Brian Anderson would prefer that staff move into the location and determine the feasibility of this location to ensure there would not be conflicts with operations.
- Members discussed future locations.

What Should the SAB Focus on in 2022

- Previous ideas:
 - Discussed working with merchants from charging for plastic bags to outlawing them. Many municipalities has danced around this issue and no hard stance has been taken.
 - Plastic recycling. Kathy Corbin has done a wonderful job as a leader in the community. There's been a decent compliance with trash companies.
- Suggested focuses for this year:
 - HOA curbside glass recycling (Vice-Chair Harrison). Discussion follows concerning cost and forming an ad hoc group to discuss the benefits of recycling glass. Bill Schutte would like to assist on this matter. His HOA discussed approximately \$5 per home pick-up. Dr. Shelley Bhattacharya discussed her experience with her HOA, The Pavilions. Twenty people signed up for this at \$3 per home for bi-weekly pick-up. Mark Ciaramitaro also mentions the cost is a factor in his 1400 homes Leawood Estate HOA. Although the cost is small, they are dealing with increases in waste recycling, tree care and trying to keep the dues as low as possible. They promoted the services and allowed for those who wanted to participate to sign up for private services. Dr. Sonya Evans mentioned that the Pavilions cancelled their glass recycling program due to lack of participation. She is willing to talk to the board members to discuss having a glass recycling program. Bill Blessing's HOA has successful participation with Glass Bandit. He suggested Leawood have a master agreement for HOAs to enter into and receive a discount on the program to help with costs with no direct cost to Leawood. Members also discussed various misconceptions of glass recycling.
 - Bill Blessing suggested reviewing the adoption and implementation by Leawood of the 6-7 sustainability recommendations of the metropolitan area regional council and other groups. He is new to the committed and does not know if this has been done but he suggested that this group act as an advisor to the City Council for the ones that have not been adopted or implemented as of yet. Chair Sipple mentions the Climate Action Task Force came up with 25 different recommendations for municipalities. The City Administrator reviewed them and presented them to the City Council. They were several that were impossible, several that are under consideration, and several that have already been adopted.
 - Alicia Jennings suggested two bins in Leawood, similar to Ripple Glass. Mark Ciaramitaro attests that the one at Corinth is popular but inconvenient for those living south. Chair Sipple asked if the City Park was a possible location. Brian Anderson cited issues with heavy traffic flow during soccer leagues or events. His is not sure if they have a good location for a bin. Bill Schutte mentions a great bin location at the north of Blue Valley North High School, behind Johnny's Tavern, across from Whole Foods. He is hoping to find a similar location for Leawood. Members discuss glass breakage, approaching how bar owners dispose of their glass, etc. Some owners contract through Ripple and they pick it up.

- Recycling education because people do not know how to recycle properly. Kathy Corbin suggested mini recycling programs (glass, trash, and composting) to present them in schools to educate kids who will then teach their parents. She is hoping for better participation.

✚ Discussion of the Effectiveness of the Community HOA Event

- Based on feedback:
 - Jim – Popular event. He is not sure if it will happen this year but he would like to see it continue. He feels it is beneficial.
 - Alicia – Popular event. Include PR personnel from specific organizations. She feels the event could happen October 22' or early 23'.
 - Dr. Shelley – Would like to know how effective it was in years past. Were they able to make a difference for HOAs. If it didn't make an impact, consider widening the audience to include schools or students, etc. Fall and winter increases infection and she believes having this in warmer months is best in 23'.
 - Kathy – The focus should be on children. There many online resources to make a curriculum for children.
 - Bill S – He believes they are on the right track and having the event early spring. He likes the topics that are practical and what people want to learn about in terms of landscaping, native plants and trees, beekeeping, etc. It is important for people to know that they exist. He feels it is important to be visual to the people and this event made them visual to the people. The recycling events helped them to be visible. He feels March of next year is the perfect time to discuss landscaping and recycling with people.
 - Bill B – He feels that if Leawood did not have this event, they would decide to do this as a form of leadership. This event should continue but focus on the HOA's behavior and not on the individual homeowners' behavior. He likes practical ideas such as tree ideas, glass recycling, etc. He also mentioned consulting with the leaders of a few larger HOAs to receive their input as to what was most useful might help design an event for the future.

✚ Next Meeting

- Chair Sipple would like the next meeting to be in April. He will go through the summary of everyone's preferences to determine day and time.
 - There will be two new voting members on board.
 - He is interested in glass recycling and hoping HOAs and individual home owners become more sensitive to the issue. Get a couple of glass companies to make a pitch on the process, variables, more convenient, etc. to get more participation.
- Dr. Shelley Bhattacharya is working on three ideas and would like feedback:
 - Prairie Star Elementary
 - Beginning a composting committee (she has applied to be a part of)
 - Work with students
 - Traveling road show about the power of composting
 - Opportunity to apply for the grant to do cafeteria food recycling like Mission Trail. (Mission Trail received a \$1,000 grant in accordance to August 31, 2021 minutes).
 - She is a Girl Scout Leader for the 6th grade and kindergarten troops. There is a Girl Scout Camp in July and they wanting to do a community service project related to sustainability, specifically water (safety, quality, health, pollutants, reducing plastics, etc.). The theme is treasure hunt.
 - Vice-Chair Harrison suggested that she reach out to WaterOne. She has contacts there and they are coming to speak to their Rotary Club in a couple of weeks. They may have a community education program.
 - There's an opportunity to set up a table and educate 300 girl scouts. The camp is located in Lee's Summit.
 - She is on the KU Sustainability board.
 - They applied for a grant and have a monthly sustainability curriculum. The audience, is KU Lawrence, KU Medical Center, and the community at large.

- If the grant is received, they will present the pilot to the committee next week. The idea is to have a sustainability fair in the summer with vendors. SAB could be a vendor for this fair. Another idea is to have a sustainability challenge where the community is invited to have ideas for sustainability on campuses. The winner of the sustainability challenge will be rewarded money. They will also have monthly events. These are other opportunities to collaborate with other folks on this education front. The grantor is KU Lawrence and the grant is for \$3,500. It is a start and KU MC is willing to put in some money toward this fair. It's called Community Conversations and Sustainability is the monthly series.
- Alicia Jennings suggested solar.
 - Every Thursday night there is a climate energy project discussion at the Village Presbyterian. They are sponsoring the forum.
 - MARC's Climate Project is April 9. It was incredible the last time she went.

Other

- Chair Sipple would like a meeting late March instead of April. He will send out a poll but suggesting 5:00 pm.

Adjourn

- Meeting is adjourned.