

Sustainability Advisory Board

March 24th, 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.

📌 Welcome, Introductions, and Ripple Glass Presentation

- Chair Sipple encourages Ripple Glass to start their presentation. Piercyn Charbonneau, Program Manager, Commercial and Morgan Henderson, Metro Program Manager are introduced. Packet folders were given out to review.
- The metro program involves the large purple bins across the metro area and the free drop-off programs for all residents and community members. The commercial programs encapsulates all these subscriptions service programs such as bars, restaurants, multi-family, event spaces, curbside programs, and open top container subscriptions for large glass producers such as window manufacturers.
- The public is able to dispose glass in the purple containers at no cost. The business service programs start at \$25 per month.
- They currently work with 10 Leawood businesses.
- SAB would like to increase participation, increase purple bins, and get more retail establishments to recycle glass. They are reviewing those barriers and impediments.
 - There are no purple bins in Leawood.
 - City code requires recycling bins to be screened on 3 sides. Ripple Glass wants the bins be visible and accessible.
 - The flyer points out potential bin locations.
 - Bins are free to host and use. They take up 1 parking spot.
 - They employ their own drivers who are super flexible with pick-ups and sweep the bin area. They can deploy a street sweeping service for larger messes.
 - Although they have a small staff, they are able to manage over 100 bins successfully across the metro. For convenience, they typically like bins to within 5 miles of the next location. When they pick up a full bin, they leave an empty bin in the space next to the full one. That is why the space of one parking space is requested and the exchange is smooth.
 - The commercial program tries to make it easy for bars and restaurant staff to use. They are encouraged to use the bins near them. They can use 64 and 96 gallon roll carts.
- Mark Ciaramitaro shares that people in north Leawood uses the Prairie Village location. He thinks a bin that is centrally located is important and a good idea. Chair Sipple agrees. He suggests Church of the Resurrection, City Hall, Leawood Library, Town Center area, Mission Farms, and the City Park as potential locations for the purple bins. Vice-Chair Harrison noted that it cannot back up to homes because the noise.
- Chair Sipple mentions the issues he sees.
 - Impediments of the city code.
 - Getting someone to host a large purple dumpster in their parking lot.
 - Residential glass curbside pick-up.
 - Ripple Glass has numerous curbside partners that operate in the KC metro. Their goal is to fill a need that others may not be able to which is scalability. They would be able to offer a city wide program, etc. They would be interested in incentivizing a Leawood discount for HOA. Most people do not realize this but the glass that is picked-up ends up in their processing facility for recycling.

ATTENDEES

7:30 am • Council Chambers /
Streamed via Zoom

- Chuck Sipple, Chair**
- Lisa Harrison, Vice-Chair**
- Dr. Shelley Bhattacharya**
- Bill Blessing**
- Erin Chacey**
- Mark Ciaramitaro**
- Dr. Sonya Evans**
- Alicia Jennings (Zoom)**
- Bob Pierson**
- Jim Potter**
- Bill Schutte**

- 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**
- Piercyn Charbonneau**
Program Manager,
Commercial, Ripple Glass
- Morgan Henderson**
Metro Program Manager,
Ripple Glass

- He discussed several ideas and that they start by picking an idea and slowly work it through the City, Brian's department or other departments. Perhaps a pilot project with COR or Johnson County, etc. to say yes. They are not able to solve all the issues in one meeting.
- Bill Blessing would love to see the City move forward is a 3-part communication with them after the research and when ready is to:
 - Encourage HOA's to adopt a curbside program because it has the highest potential participation rates.
 - Announce new Leawood based public bin locations.
 - Communication in conjunction with the Chamber to businesses encouraging them to enroll in that program.

He suggested asking the right city staff person to work with Ripple Glass in identifying a location for a large public bin to report and then make recommendations to the committee. The City subsidizing the curbside pick-up is a bigger lift. Communications, those 3 steps, and possibly an ordinance change for the screening to make the public ones available in Leawood is encouraged.

- Mark Ciaramitaro commented that he is with a HOA of 1,100 members. They have done surveys and charging an additional fee is not popular. There's a little bit of contradiction of promoting curbside pick-up and at the same time promoting Ripple Glass in central locations which could take some of the burden off some of the HOAs. They can tell their members this is an easier path to do and that they are not doing curbside pick-up but there's Ripple Glass containers that are now closer. This is the preferred approach for many HOAs because the annual cost is high. Members discuss it further.
- The Lodge and Vista 154 could benefit from having a bin at their location. Currently, a staff member loads and drives to Central States to recycle glass. Brian Anderson will pursue to have a contract to have a container. There is only size for the public drop-off bin.
- Morgan Henderson stated that Ripple bins tend to do better when they are near a grocery and liquor stores.
- Vice-Chair Harrison shared that she and Chair Sipple have a goals meeting Monday night for long-term and short-term goals for the City. If they can get a list for city locations with monthly or twice monthly pick-up, she would absolutely support the budget for it. If they can work with the right people and work to have 2-3 bins in public places by the end of the year is a realistic goal. This will give them time to review the impediments and what can be done. They discuss screening, noise, broken glass, flat tires, and more.
- Morgan Henderson reiterated that a deep cleaning sweeper service can be deployed weekly or as needed. She also pointed out the stickers in the folder are of artwork from local artists that were placed on bins. They received a grant to do this art bin project. She indicated that they could do a similar project for Leawood. It is unique to the community. Chair Sipple asked for glass stats as to how much is kept out of the landfill. She replied that each of the purple bin holds between 5 and 7 tons of glass. She noted the sheets in folded for Prairie Village and Overland Park, the tonnage that is being diverted from the land field since 2009. Prairie Village with their 2 bins has diverted almost 10,000 tons of glass from the landfill from 2021 with Overland Park at nearly 17,000 tons. Leawood is the only municipality in Johnson County that does not allow purple bins.
- Chair Sipple asks which one gets the most glass out of the landfill. Piercyn Charbonneau identified 48 potential partners for their commercial program in Leawood. They are working with 11 out of 48. In 2019, they had their first Leawood commercial account and collected over 182 tons. Two businesses dropped out due to going out of business. Most businesses have grown significantly year after year. A lot of businesses are billed by the waste tonnage. Some are being fined because they are putting it in the recycle bin. It really does save businesses a lot of money in the long run. The initial set-up is now waived. The barrier to entry is very low for businesses at this point.
- Vice-Chair Harrison asked if a 96 gallon cart could be located inside a pool lot to be paid from an HOA rather than individuals. The HOA does not have to be declared as a business and yes, Ripple will accept anyone who's got money and wants to pay for recycling is welcomed. It does not have to be a business like a bar. They also work with a large number of apartment complexes. Chair Sipple believes there are several good ideas for them to talk about. He thanks Piercyn

Charbonneau and Morgan Henderson for joining them. He hopes to see them again and tells them that they would like to pursue some of these avenues whether they be commercial accounts, HOAs with swimming pools, apartment buildings, or doing something in the parks.

Approve Agenda

- Vice-Chair Harrison makes a motion approve the agenda.
- Bill Blessing seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve January 28, 2022 minutes

- Vice-Chair Harrison makes a motion approve the minutes.
- Alicia Jennings seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Update on Prairie Star Composting Grant

- Dr. Shelley Bhattacharya and Erin Chacey to visit Prairie Star to discuss the grant.
- The form has been sent to Dr. Shelley Bhattacharya for the principal to fill out.
- This discussion is tabled for the next meeting.

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. Saturday, July 23 from 8 am-12 pm (noon).
- Member participation to help with the recycling event is requested.
- The Police will have a separate line for document shredding.
- FYI. St. Joseph Hospital will have a shredding event in a few weeks. No residency required.

Update on Bike Committee – Brian / Alicia

- Alicia Jennings has alerted everybody about the walk to school event on May 4th. She has garnered 80% participation.
- Vice-Chair Harrison asks that she reach out to the Shawnee Mission Post and Blue Valley Post to add in blurb in their online newspaper. Write to stories@shawneemissionpost.com.
- Mark Ciaramitaro asks if the city has established guidelines or ordinances limiting electric bikes on the trails. Brian Anderson mentions that Class 1, 2, and 3 electric bikes are permitted on the trails. Other cities were limiting Class 2 electric bikes which can assist without pedaling up to 20 mph. There are no speed limits on our trails. It's very difficult for the police to enforce it because not all bikes are required to have a speedometer. Chair Sipple wanted to know if we get the word out to let others know that Class 2s are allowed on the trail. Alicia Jennings doesn't want the word out. She feels that it is a walking and cycling trail not an electric bike trail. Plenty of users have found it so it's not so hidden.
- Brian Anderson gives a brief update on the bike hub.
 - Still under construction. The shelter is delayed. It's waiting to be powder coated before they can ship to the general contraction. They say they will be finished by the deadline, May 2nd.
 - It is important that the pump house and concession building are completed so the pool is opened for Memorial weekend. There is still much to do.

Update on Tree Committee – Vice-Chair Harrison

- Finished the Arbor Day poster contest. Brian Anderson was super helpful with that. The local Arbor Day poster contest winners will be recognized at a council meeting. Debbi Adams put that together and Thad Carver are working with the library to display the 3 posters during April.
- The Rotary Grove is complete. A memorial tree was recently added.
- Members have written articles and great updates for the websites in the last 6 months.

Climate Action Summit - Saturday, April 9, 1:00-5:00 pm – Chair Sipple

- Chair Sipple sent out information for the JCCO event. He will be attending and would for others to join him.
- The cost is \$25 and will be reimbursed by the City via Chris Claxton.
- Most classes and meetings are in the afternoon. Display booths and featuring famous speakers: Emmanuel Cleaver and Quinton Lucas.

- Marica Putman will collect the name of those who are attending. Attendees include: Chuck Sipple, Mark Ciaramitaro, Bill Blessing, and Alicia Jennings.

SAB Committee Trash Pick-Up Event – Vice-Chair Harrison

- Leawood Rotary Club Pop-Up Trash Events are called Pop Ups because they are not usually planned more than a week ahead and because they look at the weather forecast.
- Events are usually on Saturday or Sunday for 2 hours. She explains what they do and how they keep everyone safe. It is a great service opportunity too.
- She wanted to know if members are interested and they are. A notice will be given a week in advance.
- Brian Anderson suggested a potential pick-up. At the top of Ironwoods Park gets accumulations of blown trash from the new home building construction process. It gets tied up along the tree line between the trail and their property. He has sent in his own crews to help pick up the trash. Travis Torres, Director of Codes Services has been working with him to get the builder to clean up the area too.
- They will try to pick a date for April.
- Leawood Rotary Club also does a whole stretch of stream cleaning at 119th Street to 115th Street. Nativity Church does Tomahawk Park to Roe on the southbound trail.
- Brian Anderson's crews does a really good job policing the trails.
- Chair Sipple is in favor of the Ironwoods Park clean up.

SAB Committee Trash Pick-Up Event – Vice-Chair Harrison

- Several departments in the city has e-newsletters. She suggested that anyone who has an interest in writing provide a 500 word article about a sustainable topic and she will talk to City staff to be posted on Facebook, department e-newsletters, or submit them to Shawnee Mission Post for sustainable content. She tells members how SMP grew their readership with their stories. They do cater to two different school districts: Shawnee Mission School District and Blue Valley School District.
- Alicia Jennings had the task of checking compost rates for neighborhoods with Compost Collective KC. They have a special rate. Six people in an area for 15% of your charge as long as you have the service. It is \$20 a month for bi-weekly and \$30 a month weekly for compost pick-up. You receive a 5 gallon bucket that gets picked up. They are willing to speak to us. She subscribes along with 8 others. They collect everything that is compostable, even meat. They doubt if they can do paper shredding as it may not be compostable. Chair Sipple would like to learn more about composting and would like for them to come to a meeting. She will ask them once a meeting date is set up.

Next Meeting

- Chair Sipple is concerned for meeting dates. There is still much discussion left to determine ideal meeting days, times, and how often. Quorum was almost not met today.
 - Alicia Jennings, Mark Ciaramitaro prefers morning meetings
 - Bill Blessing prefers another time
 - Dr. Sonya Evans, flexible
 - Chair Sipple, flexible
 - Vice-Chair Harrison, morning or 4 pm (she suggests people who are not attending to roll off)
 - Dr. Shelley Bhattacharya works 8 am-5 pm at KUMC.
 - Erin Chacey drops off and picks up kids.
 - Bob Pierson is often working.
 - Jim Potter drops off kids.
 - Bill Schutte is retired and usually flexible, good about attending meetings.
- Vice-Chair Harrison will put out a survey for the next meeting for either Tuesday mornings or Thursday after work. The first week of May for the next meeting. Alicia Jennings will invite the composting people to attend. And an update from the City on glass recycling recommendations.
- Mark Ciaramitaro would like to have a meetings scheduled for the rest of '22. Chair Sipple agreed because nothing cannot do business and vote on things unless there's a quorum. Zoom meetings may be continued for those who cannot attend in person but allows their vote to be captured.

Adjourn

- Meeting is adjourned.