

Sustainability Advisory Board

June 30th, 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.

Greetings

Approve Today's Meeting Agenda

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

Approve March 24, 2022 Minutes

- Vice-Chair Harrison makes a motion approve the minutes.
- Mark Ciaramitaro seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Guests

- No guests.

Update on Prairie Star Composting Grant

- Vice-Chair Harrison will contact Dr. Shelley Bhattacharya for an update to handoff the info to Erin Chacey.
- The grant is not pending. The paperwork has not been seen and needs a follow-up of where it stands.

Compositing Choices – Alicia Jennings

- Compost Collective KC.
 - She talked to CoCo who is willing to speak to the group in September about their services.
 - Discounts:
 - Group of 6 – 15% off the monthly
 - Weekly pickup is \$30 a month – get 15% off
 - Bi-weekly pickup is \$15 – get 15% off
 - Info can be sent out to HOAs to gauge interest.
 - They might be a candidate to make a short presentation at a future HOA summit.
 - Approximately 50 households in Leawood Estates and several in other HOAs.
 - Compost Collective KC serves Leawood and is located in Kansas City, Missouri. The Kansas City Star featured an article about the company 3 months ago.
- Pet N Pet.
 - Dog waste bags can be purchased: 1,080 count biodegradable rolls for \$21.99 (approximately 2 cents each).
 - Brian Anderson will check his costs and compare pricing. He will send the results to everyone. He padlocks the boxes to prevent theft of the whole bag rolls.
 - Members discuss the benefits of the biodegradable bags. The bags degrade faster than regular plastic bags in the landfill. A brief discussion follows concerning biodegradable bags for homeowners and separating trash from dog waste. Neither is favorable.

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**
- 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

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🚦 Bike/Walk to School Events from May – Alicia Jennings

- Jaelyn Penn was at Corinth had 83% biked or walked.
- Alicia Jennings was at Nativity had a great turnout. She had requested additional police help. They were there at the school but were needed at the crosswalk.
- Erin Chacey was at Mission Trail and had a good results.
- Dr. Shelley Bhattacharya has not reported on her school's attendance.
- Brookwood was very well attended.
- Adults to child ratios depend on the child's age. The young ones have parents with them.
- The hill at Nativity is an obstacle. The school has a crossing guard.
- Members discuss having this event during August – October time frame to promote walking and biking more often for the schools. Chair Sipple suggested light bars at preferred school locations.
- Officer Phil Goff retired and the new Officer is Cody Morse for Bike/Walk Leawood.

🚦 SAB Grant – Nativity – Alicia Jennings

- Nativity's \$1,500 grant was approved and they have received their check.
- They are starting their compost now.
- Mark Ciaramitaro requests a copy to approach Brookwood's principal to see if he's interested. Schools generate a lot of recycling and picked up three times a week.

🚦 Update on Electronics Recycling Event – July 23 – Vice Chair Lisa Harrison, Chair Chuck Sipple

- The recycling event is on scheduled for Saturday, July 23 from 8 am-12 pm (noon).
- Town Center is publicizing the event with banners, signage, and a social blast. The City will use social media. Vice-Chair Harrison shares the verbiage and graphic to members to get the word out to HOAs and others.
- The cost is approximately \$6,350 with Town Center and Leawood splitting the cost. The event is then evaluated for participation and cost. If the event does not draw the numbers, then it could be moved to every other year.
- There will be 2 shifts of 2 hours. 8 to 10 am or 10 am to 12 pm. Bring sunscreen, wear a hat, bring water, etc. Members can use the wash room inside Revo Cup. Relatively easy work, mostly directing people, moving cars up, etc.
- Chair Sipple would like to order more t-shirts. Brian Anderson will check on it.
- Members discuss getting 20 additional electronics recycling yard signs for major intersections.
- Vice-Chair Harrison will contact members not present to see if they would like to volunteer for the event.

🚦 Update on Bike Committee – Brian Anderson / Alicia

- Brian Anderson will send out an update regarding the status of the July meeting to the Bike/Walk Committee.
- The shelter almost built. There is a miscalculation with the concrete base that requires a re-pour. The landscape is being installed this week.
- Chair Sipple learned from David Ley that as part of the CIP, they are widening the bike trail will from 133rd Street between High and State Line Road. This will be done in 4 years when the apartment development is being built. There is a pinch point at the bike trails that they are trying to resolve.
- They are widening the road at Mission Road from 133rd to 143rd. There will be 4 or 5 foot bike lane. It is heavily trafficked bike route and not very safe.
- Brian Anderson has reviewed what the traffic island landscape would be on Mission from 133rd to 143rd. It will have different species of trees. For active transportation, there will be 8 foot wide shared use paths and 5 foot wide bike lanes on each side.
- There are no bike events planned for the rest of the year.
- Mark Ciaramitaro bikes with a biking group that bike on Tomahawk Creek Trail. They have concerns with several bridges. Especially one north of 127th Street there's bridges patched together with just wood. They are worried that as they are going over that bridge that something's going to give. Creeks near the off road just south of the park at Roe. That area is Overland Park. They cover the Tomahawk Creek Trail between Roe and Nall. Brian Anderson is aware of that bridge and has brought it to their attention. He has had bridges with gaps in the wood planks that have been replaced in the past.

- Another concern at 119th and Tomahawk Creek Parkway. The ripples in the bike trail need to be grinded and wanted to know what can be done for it. It is very rough. [Brian Anderson](#) suggested a mill and overlay with asphalt instead of concrete. Roots are causing some of the ripples as well as worn asphalt. This is on his to-do list. He has a contractor out in that area and is considering a full concrete upgrade and costs. This area floods so concrete would be the better option. To widen that area takes engineering. He explained the process and agreed that it is the most distressed segment of the trail. Another area to upgrade is from Mission Road north, south of the wastewater treatment plant where there's a loop to go to the Indian trail that is also in need of maintenance. Ironwoods is getting older and the asphalt needs to get replaced in areas also.
- The City has received a bit of a windfall and a Covid-19 relief fund that could be used for the trail system. [Chair Sipple](#) would like budget estimates from [Brian Anderson](#) so that he and [Vice-Chair Harrison](#) could make a pitch for the trail system. The trail is a huge asset. [Bill Schutte](#) reminded everyone that part of this trail is part of a trail system that is rated as one of the top ten trails in the United States. He will look for the article that it came from.

Update on Tree Committee – Vice-Chair Harrison

- After a tree discussion and working with the City, the staff came up with a proposal or draft to protect the street trees. A fine would be given to a homeowner who does not go through the proper channels, permission, and replacement plan. It is a concern in North Leawood where there are teardowns, construction and the taking out street trees that are 50-60 years old for wider driveways, circular driveways, bigger houses on the lot, etc. That was the motivation for this proposal. This led to a bigger tree discussion about all trees. There's not a consensus of the governing body to homeowners that the City wants to start regulating on what a homeowner does on the rest of the property. There has been conversation about protecting bigger trees, telling homeowners what they can cut down or not cut down and various reasons. There are some cities that require a permit for a cutting a tree. There's not a consensus for this.
- Leawood has a great tree canopy.
- Receive the Tree City award for many years.
- There's not a rampant situation of people cutting huge trees in their yard.
- A lot of yards were overplanted with trees.
- They discussed tree damage prevention measures during construction such as putting up boundaries around the drip line, trees with construction fencing, not piling excess dirt when excavating on the roots of trees, etc. There was consensus for that. There may be citations if people violate that. Word needs to get out to the builders. Inspection people will be watching out for that.
- If this proposal is approved, the process may be:
 - The permit holder will fill out the survey.
 - Start marking out where the street trees in the right-of-way and would have to propose a tree protection plan that met the guidelines of the tree ordinance.
 - Parks would review and approve. They would also communicate if there are questions or if they have to go through the tree protection zone to carry on their project but provide a remedy for that, it may be allowable.
 - It is based on the size of the tree or the drip line. They would have to comply with that. Questions would be answered. The City guidelines will be used.
 - Staff time used is unknown.

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

- Ironwoods Park location due to construction projects immediately south of the park.
- The construction trash is becoming less and less because the houses are almost complete. It will not be a continuing problem.
- [Brian Anderson's](#) crew will pick up trash debris.
- [Vice-Chair Harrison](#) will send out an email with an invite from the Rotarians for this pop up trash event in the first or second week of September to beat the summer heat.
- [Bill Blessing](#) has stream clean-ups along the Blue River. He will keep everyone posted on their event. It's a big deal. They bring in a barge with cranes, pulling out cars and more.

 **Next Meeting**

- Tentative for Thursday, August 25th at 4 pm.
- Discuss composting and a fall or winter event for Homes Association.
- Brian Anderson to reserve the room and put on calendar.

 **Adjourn**

- Meeting is adjourned.