

# Sustainability Advisory Board

## December 8<sup>th</sup>, 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

### 1. Approve Agenda

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

### 2. Approve October 27, 2022 Minutes

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

### 3. Status of Compost Collective KC Pilot Project with Fire Dept.

- Brian Anderson contacted the Fire Department and they are willing to try the pilot project. The cost is \$517.50 for 6 months for weekly pickup at all 3 fire stations. Once approved, Brian Anderson and the Colin Fitzgerald, Fire Chief, will set up the contract and compost training with Compost Collective KC.
- **Bill Schutte makes a motion to approve the Fire Department composting test. Vice-Chair Harrison seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Send the invoice to Chris Claxton and it will be coded to the SAB account for payment.
- Bill Blessing provides an update for individual citizens to do composting. He did a draft describing both the community pickup and the drop it off at your convenience services. He reached out to the two large HOA management firms and Jim Todd of centuries agreed to send it to the people of each HOA for their newsletters. First Service has not responded. He will continue to connect with them.
  - He contacted Kurt Neis, Prevention Captain and Fire Inspector, for an updated list of HOA contacts and was referred to Katy Mikelson, Administrative Services Assistant, who contacted the legal department on the legality of sharing HOA information. He is waiting to hear back from her.
  - An updated HOA list could be a channel of communication on sustainability issues. He cannot guarantee that persons in charge will follow through and forward the message.

#### ATTENDEES

4:00 PM • Council Chambers /  
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- Chuck Sipple, Chair**
- Lisa Harrison, Vice-Chair**
- Bill Blessing**
- Erin Chacey**
- Mark Ciaramitaro**
- Dr. Sonya Evans**
- Sherrie Gayed**
- 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

#### Invited Guest

#### ✚ 4. Status of Grant Check for Cure of Ars School

- Chair Sipple has grant checks for Mission Trail and Cure of Ars. He would like another staff or board member to accompany him to deliver the check to the principal. He would like to do this before Christmas. Each check is for \$1,000.
  - Erin Chacey will accompany Chair Sipple to Mission Trail. She will set a meet up with Principal Debbie Bond.
  - Chair Sipple will contact Alicia Jennings to accompany him to Cure of Ars and contact Ms. Lefebvre.

#### ✚ 5. Progress on Grants with Other Elementary Schools

- Prairie Star Elementary submitted an application for a grant. Mrs. Stacy Sperry is applying for \$1,000 for a food cooperative to pick up their waste. The cost is more than \$1,000 and the school will pick up the remaining cost for the school year. If this goes well, they will apply again in 2024 if SAB continues to make it available.
- These grants are for the school year and are expensed in a calendar year (2022 budget year).
- This is the overview of the SAB budget, \$20,000 per year and does not roll over.
  - Banners and signs for the Saturday Citywide Recirculation event in September.
  - The recycling event with Town Center Plaza, approximately \$5,000-\$6,000.
  - School grants of \$1,000 to Cure and Mission Trail. \$1,500 to Nativity
  - Approximately \$8,500 left in the budget.
- Members discussed whether to give \$1,000 or \$1,200 to the Prairie Star Elementary compost program.
- It appears that nobody can do much for \$1,000. Chris Claxton suggested that going forward they change the language to “up to \$1,500 or proposed amount”. Chair Sipple would like to mention the grant application in the program guide and the city’s newsletter. This will help gained interest, have deadlines, and know sooner if SAB can support or not support other initiatives.
- Chair Sipple likes the idea of increasing the grants to \$1,500, especially if they don’t have the HOA event. They can discuss it later.
- **Vice-Chair Harrison makes a motion to give Prairie Star Elementary School \$1,000 for a food cooperative to pick up their waste. Erin Chacey seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Chris Claxton will request the check to be held and given out prior to the holiday.
- Brian Anderson will contact the teacher and tell her the good news.
- The committee will work on Leawood Elementary, Saint Michael’s and Brookwood for future applications.

#### ✚ 6. Mission Trail Composting Program – Erin Chacey

- No update.

## 7. Status of Glass Collection

- Chair Sipple asks the committee if they are going to do anything with glass. They have made overtures to the Lodge and Vista 154 and extended to the fire stations to collect glass. City Hall collects plastic and aluminum. Chris Claxton verifies that glass from Ironwoods is being picked up. Brian Anderson will verify whether Ripple Glass collects it or does parks drops it off. He will send an email when he finds out.

## 8. Cost Estimates for Pollinator Garden Initiative and Monarch Butterflies.

- Scott Gamerl is on Zoom.
- Brian Anderson reviewed the paperwork and the obligations for the pledge. They are already doing several things that are suggested and they can take the credit for that. He has a proposal for the Monarch butterflies and a suggested area. There's about an acre around the Nature Center that could be seeded into wildflowers. It is behind the Nature Center, up the slope/hill, and inside the trail loop. They found a Monarch flyway mix and also a pollinator mix.
  - Approximately 10 pounds to seed the area.
  - Wildflower seeds are really small, lightweight, and a lot for a pound.
  - It is expensive. \$121 per pound of wildflower seeds.
  - The amount would be \$1,600 to \$2,000 to fund.
  - Once bought, the seed would be spread/sowed in March, 2023.
- There is a plan to fix that hillside which would impact that suggested area. They would have to restore and reset it later. They do have another area south of the cabins that they can plant small pockets of wildflower seeds in there. It's up the hill east of the Nature Center.
- Evergy is changing out power lines in Ironwoods Park. Their easement is the area between the maintenance building and the Nature Center that's below the power lines. It is 160 feet wide. They are working with Evergy who will provide that type of seed for that area. Parks will also restore that area with a grass mix too. This area will not need to be funded. It is an area strip that would be turned into a more tall grass prairie pollinator area as well. Their agreement with Evergy is that they prep the ground and Parks will seed it because they are more knowledgeable about the wildflower seeding and grass mix. He explains the process of seeding in which the seed just contacts the soil and is not buried deeply. Over the winter time, the seed settles on the ground and start to grow from that area.
- There will be two large patches of wildflowers. Erin Chacey mentioned another area that is over by the bridge that Mission trail scattered seed bombs. That area would be all native tall grass. Vice-Chair Harrison wanted to know if they could put signs proclaiming prairie grass restoration similar to what Sprint did when it used to be the Sprint campus when they stopped mowing along 119<sup>th</sup>. That was intentional, could be for education, and integrated into a nature center program. She would love to see more pollinator gardens around the city.
  - By the City Park
  - Near 143<sup>rd</sup> and Kenneth
  - City Hall and the library
  - Leawood Crossing

- Chair Sipple suggested a phase two for signage along the trail that goes above the Nature Center later.
- There's a recommendation to appropriate \$1,500 to \$2,000 to for a pollinator garden.
- **Vice-Chair Harrison makes a motion to give Parks \$2,000 for pollinator garden seeds. Bill Schutte seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- The seeds would be purchased tomorrow with a purchase order and planted in March.
- Erin Chacey mentioned another space that could be used for pollinator support. She could rally the school to do another seed ball activity and toss the seed balls into that area if Brian Anderson and Scott Gamerl made that space ready.
  - The area is where the bridge is just north, between the parking lot of the lodge and over to the amphitheater.
  - Brian Anderson shared that they still have some of those wildflowers that Mission Trail planted. Staff has done some more seeding over the years. He has seen allium and flowering Mexican hat in the spring. Scott Gamerl had some ideas that are in line with what Erin Chacey was saying with these seed balls.
  - Scott Gamerl mentioned that the Nature Center already does a lot of the action items listed on the Mayor's pledge such as "engaging the community", "community driven education", and "hosting a native seed or plant sale." There are very few items that they are not doing which are small things. They are already doing about 11 or 12 items on the list.
    - The reason they are doing this because the monarch is a charismatic species. If they maintain these gardens and natural areas, good things coming from this are more bees, more pollinators, more birds, etc.
    - In the past, he has contacted seed companies who will donate last year's seeds for the cost of shipping and handling. They do this because they are already getting new seeds. The germination rate probably goes from about 98 to probably around 85 or lower. The seed can then be sold at a very, reduced cost or repackaged for a seed giveaway at the Nature Center. He is open to either those ideas. Most seeds are of coneflowers, dills, and endives that butterflies like to land on and lay their eggs on. Also a lot of good, general flowering seeds and vegetables.
    - He would like SAB to consider donating a little bit of this fund to the Nature Center to get the seed ordered for people who are planting in January or early February.
    - \$500 would cover the cost. This would be for individuals who could start their community gardens and start with heritage seeds, non-GMO seeds and be comfortable with the knowledge that they planting seeds that are safe for the environment and not a nuisance.
    - There are no seed ball events for kids from January to March. They are planning a "Day of Mud" for kids. Swimming pools filled with mud so kids can make mud pies and bombs more. More programs to come out in June in the program guide.

- **Vice-Chair Harrison makes a motion to give Scott Gamerl \$500 for seeds for programs. Bill Blessing seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

#### ✚ 9. Update on Bike Committee – Brian Anderson / Alicia Jennings

- Brian Anderson would like to increase awareness of the leadership grant program by adding support for bicycling and walking programs, including signage and anything to improve the bike/walk to school events if SAB is willing. That was an idea that Alicia Jennings brought up. They wanted to know if that could be considered with this leadership grant program for schools to apply for.
- Alicia Jennings mentioned getting reflectors for kids to put on their backpack as they ride down the street or on their back fender. They could put the name City of Leawood, SAB or a logo on it.
- Bill Blessing suggested when they redraft the application for proposals, raising the grant from \$1,000 to \$1,500, to add a sentence or two that defines sustainability as including bike and walk promotion, making sure school applicants recognize of the range of opportunities available.
- Brian Anderson and Alicia Jennings will update us on that issue as they define it more.

#### ✚ 10. Potential Working Relationship on Sustainability Initiatives with Prairie Village

- Chair Sipple spoke to his Council person in Prairie Village earlier this week. She sent out their request to work with them on sustainability issues and had no response. It's the same with Overland Park. They're well down the road on sustainable with their big recycling programs over at Black and Veach and the community college.
- He would like to do the electronics here and for them to do lumber, drywall, paper, and everything else over there.
- Bill Blessing suggested meeting like how the Johnson County Arts Council gets their art and that is to meet with other sustainability groups of the different cities to have an informal meeting together to discuss what they're doing and ideas might arise from that discussion. Chair Sipple proclaim that was a good idea. He would like to try that next year. Chris Claxton agreed that it's a great idea and would probably provide more results than with the HOA dinner. Bill Blessing suggested reaching out to the sustainability manager for the county. Vice-Chair Harrison knows that person and will send his contact info to Chris Claxton and Brian Anderson. Chair Sipple mentioned that Mike Kelly is the new chair and sustainability leader in the whole community. They discuss getting together for a future meeting in February or March.
- Vice-Chair Harrison circles back to glass recycling. SAB funds do not roll over to the next year and she is suggesting to use the extra funds to promote curbside glass recycling to a few homes in a neighborhood.
  - They would pay 50% of the cost with a twice monthly pickup. It would cost approximately \$2 per house per month when they get the whole neighborhood. It's an incredible price break. Maybe the people will fall in love with the pilot program and work it into their HOA dues or budget.
  - They could put it out there on social media and announce that they have \$1,000 for this and to act fast because whoever asks for it first gets it. They can send one invoice and not to every house.

- Glass recycling can give a huge return on investment because it does not degrade.
- After member discussion, it was decided that December was too late to entertain this idea. Members decide revisit this idea for next year's budget and re-evaluate the extra funds in August. They will also review the process of this idea. If an event is held at one of the City's facilities, there is no facility charge. Food, drinks or other expenses would be out-of-pocket.
- To use up the extra funds for this year, Erin Chacey suggested planting more trees or converting an existing lawn like medians into prairie grass. Especially oak trees if there is space for them as they are so necessary and valuable to the ecosystem.
- Brian Anderson configures a cost estimation of a 2 ½ inch caliper tree is \$300 depending on species. They do not have time to purchase and plant in 2022. They could purchase the trees and have them held until March.
- Chris Claxton asked about the native grass seed drill. The cost is \$15,000. It was much higher than expected. Brian Anderson shared that it was possible to negotiate with Johnson County to borrow one. They used to borrow Leawood's when they did not have one. He believes he can get 6-8 trees from the nursery if they were in good shape. They can keep them in a mulch pile and they will hold because they are dormant. He knows of many locations for the proposed trees.
- Members discuss purchasing trees for sustainability reasons. A purchase order for ten trees is \$3,000. Purchase them, tag them, and held until they can pick it up. This will not interfere with the AMC Tree project.
  - Erin Chacey shares that SAB is not being greedy but instead are being wise stewards and using the money that the City has set aside for sustainability purposes and planning. Chris Claxton suggested putting something in the guide that shows all the initiatives that SAB has done all year. This will help people understand SAB's mission.
- Chair Sipple will make an SAB report for the next meeting. It can go to the city's communications to for all the citizens and in Parks & Rec's newsletter. Everyone is trying to do a little bit better job making sure good information is out there.
- A motion is to be made, but the quorum is less now. This will be sent out as an email vote.
- **Vice-Chair Harrison makes a motion to purchase 10 trees, preferably Oaks. Erin Chacey seconded the motion. All in favor, no nays.**
- They are looking for two more votes. The vote email has been sent out and within 36 hours.
- Brian Anderson was asked to keep members posted on his inventory and selections. Members would like to know the locations. Members discuss possible locations:
  - City Park
  - Ironwoods Park
  - Along the trails
  - I-Lan Park
  - Behind City Hall where the new trail and tunnel is on the other side of Roe
  - New trail going down to Tomahawk Creek Parkway
  - Near the North Lake restroom and other areas

- AMC trees is funding 100 trees at \$300 each. \$30,000.
- Alicia Jennings joined us and can now officially vote. Jim Potter voted online. Quorum has been met.
- **Vice-Chair Harrison makes a motion to purchase 10 trees, preferably Oaks. Erin Chacey seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

#### 11. Newsletters

- Bill Blessing had spoken a bit about putting some of this information in newsletters and all getting it out to the residents in whatever the city is using as their standard communications, which might include the program guide that Chris Claxton's group puts out. He sent out a paragraph about composting earlier.
- Chris Claxton congratulated the committee on all the things achieved tonight.

#### 12. Next Meeting Date

- **Thursday, February 2, 4 pm in the Council Chambers. Zoom is available.**

#### Adjourn

- Meeting is adjourned.