

Minutes
Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee (SEAC)
St. Joseph, MO
Wednesday Feb 22, 4:00 PM
Meeting per Zoom

SEAC met on February 22 at 4 PM per Zoom. Present were the following:

SEAC Members: Andrea Cole, Jan Storts, Dr. Elizabeth Sawin, Sara Markt, Tara Duckworth, LuAnn Cadden and Diane Waddell.

City Staff: Kim Schutte, Historic Preservation Planner; Colleen Armstrong, Assistant Environmental Services Supervisor, and Brooke Kuykendall, Community Services Coordinator, Planning & Community Development. Martha Clark, ISA Certified Arborist, was on the call as well.

Community members: Shelley White.

Diane Waddell, Convener, welcomed attendees and coordinated introductions. She stated an email from Dr. Dawn Drake who has resigned from the committee due to time constraints. Diane noted her appreciation for Dr. Drake's work with SEAC.

Diane particularly welcomed new members Tara Duckworth and Ryan Vandivert, both approved by Mayor Josendale upon her recommendation. She also welcomed Brooke Kuykendall who has a new position created by the city, and will report later in the meeting.

Goals of SEAC: Rethink, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Plant and nurture trees and native plants

Decrease single-use plastics

Encourage and support businesses which model environmental sustainability

Seek to reduce pollution of our water resources

Promote sustainable stewardship of historic buildings including adaptive reuse

Encourage the City of St. Joseph and all residences, businesses and other organizations to improve energy efficiency to decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

Continuing committee and community reports

(1) Green Businesses — #Greener St. Joe — Subcommittee report

Members: LuAnn Cadden, Sara Markt, Jan Storts, Diane Waddell; Brooke Kuykendall, Staff.

Purposes: A. Promote green business practices, focusing on local small businesses, particularly downtown businesses

B. Coordinate a Green Business Awards event, recognizing winners in various categories of modeling sustainability (based on SEAC goals.)

Report: The group met yesterday and is working on recognizing 4 or 5 small businesses at an awards event on Thursday, April 27 at 3:30 at the CVB. Diane invited others to join the subcommittee. Next meeting is March 7 or 8 at noon per Zoom.

(2) Greenway Proposal— (currently on hold and referred to Brady McKinley Public Works)

(3) Tree Projects, Prairie Restoration and Native Plantings

A. Super Science Saturday:

LuAnn Cadden and Diane reported on a successful SSS held at MWSU Ja. 28.

SEAC participated with Dr. Csengele Barta in her classroom and members helped coordinate activities including LuAnn, Colleen Armstrong, and Diane Waddell.

B. Trees

1. Arborist Update — Martha Clark reported that Forest ReLeaf is gearing up to distribute free trees again. She noted there will be a MO State Forestry Conference in St. Joseph in September, which will be at Stony Creek.

2. Shelley White noted progress with the Tree Canopy Study coordinated by Ecumenical Eco-Justice through a TRIM grant from MDC.

3. Dr. Sawin suggested coordinating recognition of businesses which plant trees

CITY CLERK

2023 MAR -6 AM 8:10

on their property, encouraging tree planting.

C. Plant Native St. Joe!

1. The group will meet with Mason Hurley, MDC, Private Land Conservationist/ Consultant, Feb. 27, regarding work on the Roundabout by Robidoux Street.
2. Members and stakeholders (See addendum 1)
3. Diane noted that Friends of Krug Park formulated a proposal for SEAC to assist with a new area of planting and that Terry Turbak will forward more information.
4. Goals
 - a. Encourage native plantings in businesses, schools, public areas such as parks, parkway, and home landscapes
 - b. Educate residents of the many benefits of native plants and trees
 - c. Work toward making St. Joseph a destination for visitors for Native Plantings
 - d. Encourage native plants, shrubs, trees and pollinator plants

Continuing and New City Partnership and Committee Reports

(1) GEO Team (Green Energy Opportunity Team (No report))

A. A sub-task force of GEO, the Resolution Committee, is made of Andrea Cole, Whitney Lanning and Diane Waddell. This committee will coordinate with city officials, to further the work of the GEO resolution.

B. "A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING PRACTICES BY THE CITY OF ST. JOSEPH AND BY ALL RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES, AND OTHER ORGANIZATION TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS."

GREENHOUSE

(2) Historic Preservation Planner: Dr. Kim Schutte is developing a proposal and possibilities for green space improvement through the Riverboat Gateway Grant which SEAC may assist with.

(3) Water Protection: Colleen Armstrong reported that her team continues to work on cultivating flowering plants and bushes for planting.

(4) Beautify St. Joseph is planning a litter clean up on April 1.

(5) Brooke Kuylendall reported on the scope of her work as Community Services Coordinator.

(6) Green Industry: Andrea Cole reported that Boehringer Ingelheim continues to model environmental sustainability and has decreased landfill waste by 41%.

Social Media/Education — Jan Storts, LuAnn Cadden, administrators

Facebook was briefly discussed and Diane suggested that the emphasis for March and April be on promoting green business including decreasing single use plastics. We will discuss further next month, but overall the emphases through the year would ideally follow our goals.

2022 Facebook

January, February — Green Business promotion

March: *Women's history month — report on women working with the environment.*

April: *Earth Day and Green Business awards.*

May: *Celebrate trees*

Migratory Birds Day (with Loess Bluffs flyway)

Prep for Historic Preservation

June: *Literature and Earth care*

July — *Trees — particularly related to the TRIM grant/tree canopy study*

August — *Pollinators. (Steve will help with bats as pollinators info)*

Sept — *Water pollution including plastics (from backyard to the ocean)*

October — Plants — Dr Barta

Nov — (Beyond) Recycling — focus on Rethink Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, (and finally Recycle)

Dec —

Other New Business and Public Comment — none

Next meeting: March 22 by Zoom

Addendum 1

Members, stakeholders of Plant Native Team

City of St Joseph (staff and departments)

Property Maintenance Manager	Juston Carr
Parks and Rec	Chuck Kempf, Director
Neighborhood Associations/Historic Preservation	Dr. Kim Schutte
Water Protection, Stormwater Quality Coordinator	Colleen Armstrong
Green Infrastructure, Stormwater Control	Kevin Lytton
Green Infrastructure, Section Inspector, Stormwater Control	Jeremy Actin

Associations

Downtown Community Improvement	Christy George
Main Street Committee (Beautification)	Todd Coffman
Main Street Committee (Beautification)	Max Guenther
Mo-Kan Community Development Coordinator	Trevor Tutt
Convention and Visitors Bureau	Marci Bennett, E.D.

Education

SJSD	Dr. Gabe Edgar and Mickey Gill
------	--------------------------------

St. Joseph Museums

Wyeth Tootle, St. Joseph Museums	Sara Wilson, E. D. Corinda
----------------------------------	-------------------------------

Stallbaumer

Remington Nature Center	Sarah Elder, Manager
Organizations and Committees	
Master Gardener	Anne Manns
Ecumenical Eco-Justice	Shelley White
	Mary Jo Harris
Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee	LuAnn Cadden
	Diane Waddell
	Steve Potter
	Kathleen Holeman
MDC, Private Land Conservationist	Mason Hurley
Beautify St. Joseph (previously Litter Committee)	Terry Turbak, chair
Friends of Krug Park	Terry Turbak, chair
Rotary Club of St. Joseph, #32	Dr. Tim Curry
	Jody Flurry