

Minutes
Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee (SEAC)
St. Joseph, MO
Wednesday, October 26 , 3:30 PM
Per Zoom

The SEAC meeting was called to order at 3:33 per Zoom. Present were Dr. Dawn Drake, Dr. Elizabeth Sawin, Sean DeWeese, as well as Martha Clark, ISA-Certified Arborist, Dr. Kim Schutte, coordinating staff, and Diane Waddell, facilitator.

Roll call was by check-in. Diane thanked members for being on the call and for their work with sustainability.

Statement of purpose in recognition that we originated as part of the Mayor's Climate Network

This committee comes from a "Network of Climate Mayors Resolution" dated 8/24/18 which states: *Resolved, That the City of Saint Joseph continue to expand on innovative environmental programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions*

Goals: 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

Diane noted that she will check with members of the subcommittee to see when they might want to start meeting again. Other members were invited to join.

Members: LuAnn Cadden, Sara Markt, Jan Storts, Diane Waddell)

Purposes: Promote green business practices, focusing on local small businesses, particularly downtown businesses with coordination through Main Street Downtown

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

(3) Tree Projects. Prairie Restoration and Native Plantings

A. Prairie Restoration — MWSU Dr. John Rushin Teaching and Research Prairie

— Dr. Drake reported that the prairie burn is planned for spring, 2023 and that grading on the cross-country track is complete.

B. Trees

1. Martha Clark reported that the tree board is planning a work day to help remove invasive species along the parkway. A date has not been set. The poster contest from the Missouri Arbor Day Foundation have been sent in but not voted upon. Martha is the Stare Forestry Council Chair.

3. Diane reported that the EEJ tree canopy study report is almost complete and there will be a discussion at a Council Work Session, date not set.

4. Diane reported that she picked up 39 trees from Forest ReLeaf, in conjunction with the local 4 Rotary clubs. These were largely for parks in Savannah, MO, Powell Street area park, Seitz Park, Lake Contrary, and Lewis and Clark Lakes.

Diane reported that Betty Sawin has facilitated planting of multiple trees along the parkway with Persisterhood.

C. Plant Native St. Joe!

1. Diane reported that Plant Native, St. Joe met on meeting October 17, Parks and Rec Office, with Mason Hurley, MDC Private Land Conservationist.
2. Robidoux Roundabout — Colleen Armstrong continues to coordinate work on the Roundabout. Other groups are involved, including EEJ and Downtown Rotary. They are meeting again to work on final plans and to apply for a cost share 'grant' through MDC>
3. Krug Park Circus area planting and anniversary — Diane reported for LuAnn Cadden. LuAnn went to the Friends of Krug Park Anniversary for the castle. She handed out our native plant brochures and free native plants. She also weeded the plantings in the circus area.
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. Include native plants, shrubs, trees and pollinator plants

Continuing 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 Dr. Dawn Drake, 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."

(2) Historic Preservation and ARPA funds possibilities: Dr. Kim Schutte reported that she is working on the ARPA Gateway grant and encouraged submissions of ideas especially for structural rehabilitation or green space improvement ideas.

(3) Water Protection — Stormwater subcommittee, Colleen Armstrong - see Plant Native report

(4) Partner organizations. Diane reported on EEJ environmental programming and market:

- a. Thursday, October 27 at 1202 Felix, JOY Center, 7 PM. Program on MWSU prairie thistle and savannah prairie area, by Dr. Csengele Barta, Dr. Aracely Newton, and Dr. Cary Chevalier
- b. JOY Community Market, 9-1 on Saturday, Nov 26, 1202 Felix.

(6) Organizational reports. Mosaic: Sean reported that seeds have been purchased for the area north of the campus., particularly of pollinators and prairie plants. Some concrete work is being redone.

Social Media/Education — Jan Storts, LuAnn Cadden — no report

2022

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

Next meeting: We agreed to not meet in Nov and Dec due to proximity of meetings to the holidays. Our next regular meeting will be January 25, 2023. Meanwhile, we could communicate through a called meeting or per email.