

**Minutes
Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee (SEAC)
St. Joseph, MO
Oct 27, 2021 3:30 PM**

This was a Zoom meeting set up through the City of St. Joseph.
Zoom connection was available in First Floor conference room, City Hall

Welcome and **Call to order** was shared by Diane Waddell, moderator, with thanks to Dr. Kim Schutte, staff liaison, for setting up the Zoom call.

September **Minutes** were acknowledged.

Roll call was by check-in. Members present were Dr. Elizabeth Sawin, Dr. Dawn Drake, Jan Storts, Dr. Csengele Barta, and Diane Waddell. Dr. Kim Schutte, Historic Preservation Planner and Colleen Armstrong, Stormwater Quality Coordinator, represented City Staff. Shelley White was a community member on the call. Special invited guest was Pat Dillon, Chief Government and Community Relations Officer, Mosaic Life Care.

Statement of purpose in recognition that we are a part of the Mayor's Climate Network

This committee comes from a Resolution 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.

Old Business:

Green Businesses — The Subcommittee includes LuAnn Cadden, Sara Markt, Jan Storts, and Diane Waddell. The group recently met with Dana Massin, Chair of the St. Joe Main Street Downtown, and discussed ways of encouraging small local businesses to develop/maintain green business practices. Ideas on this call were to encourage bulk purchases of items that were recyclable or compostable.

Tree Projects, Prairie Restoration and Native Plantings

- A. **Prairie Restoration at John Rushin Prairie:** Dr. Barta reported that there will be walking paths around the prairie. She also said that several faculty members of the Biology department are doing research. She will be speaking on Nov. 18 to Ecumenical Eco-Justice about biogenic volatile organic compounds which trees use to communicate.
- B. **Native Planting Team (Plant Native St. Joe!):** The team met at the Wyeth Tootle Mansion on October 18, with host Sara Wilson. Carol Flury brought copies of the new proposed 'weed' ordinance. The terms 'prairie' and 'wetlands' have been added. The next meeting will be November 22 at 1 PM at the Remington Center. Members/stakeholders are listed on addendum 1.

Goals: Encourage native plantings in businesses, schools, public areas such as parks, parkway, and home landscapes

Educate residents of the many benefits of native plants and tree

Develop a script related to the benefits to share with groups, etc.

Develop a brochure/information to share on social media

Develop Markers to be used for education and identification (Pollinator Restoration, etc.)

Work toward making St. Joseph a destination for visitors for Native Plantings

Include native plants, shrubs, trees and pollinator plants

C. Tree Projects: Diane reported for Martha Clark. The Tree Board, in partnership with the Dept. of Conservation, will have a tree pruning workshop for neighborhood associations on Nov. 10 at 6:00 p.m. at MDC Headquarters, 701 James McArthur Drive. MDC Community Forester Matt Schwend will conduct the demonstrations.

Ongoing City Partnership Reports

- A. Historic Preservation — Dr. Kim Schutte: Reimagining Heritage Neighborhoods — no report
- B. Water Protection — Stormwater subcommittee, Colleen Armstrong reported that she has had to cancel the planting scheduled for this evening due to rain.

Special Report: Mosaic Life Care by Pat Dillon

Pat reported that he has been looking for ways that Mosaic has been doing recycling and green initiatives. He will report findings at our next meeting.

He notes that Health and Human Services (nationally) has been challenging hospitals to become more energy efficient.

Mayors for Clean Energy (Ready for 100 Campaign): GEO Team (Green Energy Opportunity Team)

1. A sub-task force of GEO, the Resolution Committee, represented SEAC and GEO to present the Resolution on Reducing Greenhouse Gases at a Work Session on October 18. A regular meeting of the City Council followed that evening. The Resolution passed, although the words 'top' and 'priority' were removed by Council. Continuing work of GEO in the near future will be through the Resolution team, or a similar sub—committee, with general planning and recommendations referred through SEAC. Diane asked for suggestions for new members of the community in this effort. See Addendum II for stakeholders and members of the Resolution and GEO Committees. (Particularly noteworthy was that Andrea Cole, representing business - Boehringer Ingelheim - invited engineers from B-I to the work session. Two engineers were present during the work session to confirm the work toward carbon neutral with that company.)

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

Social Media/Education

Monthly focus for Facebook/City Highlights: 2021 Facebook monthly themes:

- Feb Clean Energy Focus (Dr. Drake)
- March Native Plants (LuAnn)
- April Earth Day (Green Small Business Awards with #GreenerStJoe)
- Balanced approaches to agriculture and energy (Jeff Powelson)
- May Historic Preservation (Dr. Schutte)
- June Continued historic preservation (Landmark Commission)
- July Sustainable urban planning/architecture (Sara Markt)
- August Trees (Dr. Barta)
- September Pollinators (Jeff Powelson)
- October Sustainable energy technologies (Dr. Drake)
- November Water Conservation (Katie Bruegge)
- December

New Business and Public Comment

It was agreed that SEAC would not meet in November or December since the meeting dates were very close to holidays. It was recommended that members continue to meet during the planned subcommittee meetings and report back in January.

There was no public comment.

**Next meeting: January 26, 3:30 PM per Zoom
Minutes submitted by Diane Waddell**