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**Minutes**  
**Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee (SEAC)**  
**St. Joseph, MO**  
**February 17, 2021 3:00 PM**

This was Zoom meeting set up through City of St. Joseph by Dr. Kim Schutte

Diane welcomed committee members, staff and guests and called the meeting to order.

**Roll call** was by check-in. Members present were LuAnn Cadden, Dr. Dawn Drake, Jan Storts, Dr. Elizabeth (Betty) Sawin, Dr. Csengele Barta, Sean DeWeese, Sara Markt, Kyle Beauchamp, and Diane Waddell. City staff present was Dr. Kim Schutte (Historic Preservation Consultant.) Also on the call was Jeff Powelson. Diane welcomed Kyle and Jeff.

**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
- Decrease greenhouse gas emissions

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Mayors for Clean Energy/100% Clean Energy Committee (GEO Team):**

As per agreement of SEAC, working with Mayor McMurray, and through consultation with MO Sierra Club, there is a SEAC sub-committee meeting to determine broad goals toward a St. Joseph Clean Energy Resolution and what stakeholders would be represented on the team. They are studying the Resolutions of KC and St. Louis. GEO Team stands for Green Energy Opportunity Team. Dawn reminded the group that 'geo' is a Greek prefix for the word 'earth,' so the term is fitting. Members have met twice with Mayor McMurray. Those members, representing SEAC, are Dr. Drake, Dr. Sawin, Dr. Schutte, Jan and Diane.

**Tree Projects, Prairie Restoration and Native Plantings:**

- A. *MWSU Prairie dedicated to Dr. John Rushin* — Jeff Powelson reported.  
 He noted that there will be prairie plantings on 4.5 acres of the MWSU prairie. Dr. Mark Mills has is setting up an interpretive garden on approximately 1/4 acre. The program is proceeding well, although there has been some competition for the trees from visiting deer. Overall there is a dedicated area of 38 acres including a trails system. The Wildlife Society student group has been helpful in planting and maintaining the area.
- B. *Mosaic and MO Conservation partnership on prairie restoration* — Sean DeWeese reported.  
 He noted that there is a 5 acre plot on the norther part of the Mosaic campus. Jeff offered collaboration.
- C. *Krug Park Native Plantings* — LuAnn Cadden reviewed the 2020 planting project.
- D. *Prairie/native plantings in the community* — There was enthusiasm about a potential project which would entail collaboration of a variety of existing groups to educate and encourage native plants instead of grass lawns. One group, which Jeff noted, is MARC — Mid America Regional Council, which supports conservation practices. Another is the Stormwater Protection subcommittee with Katie Bruegge.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Sustainable Alliance of St. Joe:** (The Sustainable Alliance of St. Joe [would be] a group of vetted organizations, businesses, and educational facilities in St. Joseph which models, encourages, and supports sustainable environmental practices.)

- A. Planning continues with MWSU Strategic Communication class which began fall 2020 and will run through the spring semester of 2021.
- B. LuAnn, Jan and Diane continue to meet with Dr. Jennifer Jackson and the class, and students are encouraged to report to our meetings.
- C. The new SEAC logo will be officially introduced in mid-March by the students.
- D. The students are naming the business team a Green Business group. There are currently five small businesses which are interested, but there is hope for more. Invited to learn more were small, non-franchise businesses. Dr. Drake, Sara, and Diane will follow up to visit other businesses, suggested by MWSU.
- E. The students are now planning awards for a few businesses who meet certain green business criteria. The awards presentation will be April 22, Earth Day, at 7 PM. Mayor McMurray will present the awards. (This will likely be by Zoom.)
- F. SEAC needs to come up with a description of criteria regarding how a business would be considered 'green.' Diane reviewed membership criteria for other green business groups including Bridging the Gap. We agreed that a general description would be best, using terminology including the word 'recognition.' We are looking to discover what initiatives the business has taken and what their goals are for sustainability. Ideas include packaging of products, and how they might follow the goals of SEAC, particularly goal #1 on recycling, etc. and how they might work to reduce carbon emissions in general. Diane will work on this and members will review the description.
- G. The MWSU class will also be working with the SEAC Facebook page, adding the new logo in March and working to raise awareness of SEAC itself.

**Super Science Saturday:**

Diane thanked Dr. Barta and LuAnn for their work for Super Science Saturday, January 30. Dr. Barta noted that there was good participation and that the presentations were virtual. SEAC submitted 3 presentations.

**Continuing Business:**

Members are dividing up months with themes they have suggested. Lead members are listed and other members are encouraged to send submissions to the Facebook administrators, Jan and LuAnn.

*2021 Facebook monthly themes and lead contributors:*

Feb	Clean Energy (Dr. Drake)
March	Native Plants (LuAnn Cadden)
April	Earth Day (has a connection with our Small Business Awards) 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 technology (Dr. Drake)
November	
December	

Katie Bruegge will adopt a month to focus on water conservation or something similar.

**Next meeting — March 17, 3:00 PM, by Zoom. (Note we are changing to 3 PM for consistency.)**

Submitted by Diane Waddell