

City of Lawrence
Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB)
May 12, 2010 (5:30 PM) Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Beth Johnson, Matt Lehrman, Chad Luce, Megan Poindexter, Daniel Poull, Andrea Repinsky, Simran Sethi, Brian Sifton
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Sarah Hill-Nelson
STAFF PRESENT:	Eileen Horn, Kathy Richardson
GUESTS PRESENT:	
PUBLIC PRESENT:	Michael Almon, Nick Benson

Call Meeting to Order (Sarah Hill-Nelson, Chairperson)
Take Roll Call to Determine Quorum of Members

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion and second to approve the April 14, 2010 minutes (Poindexter/Poull).
The motion carried 7-0.

Draft Horizon 2020 Environmental Chapter Recommendations

Brian Sifton informed the board that he met with Daniel Poull and Kathy Richardson last week to start drafting the SAB comments on the Environmental Chapter. Brian volunteered to complete the draft of the comments on behalf of the SAB for review at tonight's meeting. A draft copy of this document was emailed to the board prior to this meeting.

Board members discussed additional edits and comments. The board also wondered how the work from the Environmental Chapter would be accomplished. Is it going to require additional staff during this budget crunch? There was also discussion on the lack of word definitions within the Environmental Chapter.

Eileen Horn, County/City Sustainability Coordinator, highlighted that the Environmental Chapter uses an older definition of sustainability. She wondered if SAB is interested in suggesting a broader, newer definition of sustainability.

Motion and second to allow Brian Sifton to draft the SAB comments on the Environmental Chapter, to make edits to this document as discussed at tonight's meeting as well as the edits emailed directly to him, and to submit the final draft of the SAB comments to staff who will forward to the Planning Commission (Sifton/Lehrman).
The motion carried 6-1.

Review Les Blevins' Proposal

Board members stated that they have received and read the emails Les Blevins' has sent since his presentation to SAB on April 14th. There was discussion regarding the tone and content of

some of Mr. Blevins' emails. The board agreed that their recommendation to the City Commission would be that SAB cannot recommend Mr. Blevins' technology to the City of Lawrence.

Motion and second to allow Megan Poindexter to draft a memo on behalf of the SAB stating that the board cannot recommend Les Blevins' technology to the City of Lawrence and to submit this memo to staff who will forward to the City Manager and the City Commission (Poull/Repinsky). The motion carried 7-0.

Douglas County Local Foods Policy Council Update

Daniel Poull informed the board that he is on the Soil Preservation Subcommittee. This subcommittee is working on a trip with stakeholders (i.e. land owners) to Traverse City, Michigan where they currently have strong land preservation policies.

Other Local Food Policy Council updates:

- The Council is submitting comments on the Horizon 2020 Environmental Chapter.
- The next meeting is on May 17th at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Station on 19th and Stewart Ave.
- Eileen Horn is the new staff liaison of the Council.
- The Education Subcommittee is planning a booth on local foods at the County Fair.

Update on the 12th and Haskell Bargain Center

Andrea Repinsky reported that on May 4th the City's Codes Enforcement Manager sent Bo Killough, owner of the 12th and Haskell Bargain Center, a notice of violation letter. She explained that the notice of violation stated that in order for Mr. Killough to comply, he needs to revert back to the operations as they were in 2003 and submit a site plan by the end of May 2010.

Update on the Burroughs Creek Trail Fruit/Nut Tree Proposal

Andrea Repinsky reported that thus far the Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department has not planted domestic fruit trees (i.e. apples, pears) in the Burroughs Creek Trail, but they have planted native trees.

The board discussed supporting the Lawrence Fruit Tree Project by submitting a memo to the City of Lawrence recommending the use of fruit trees in the landscaping of the Burroughs Creek Trail and future projects, and also recommending a change to the City ordinance which currently prohibits people from picking fruits off trees.

Next steps as agreed by the board:

- Place this item on the June meeting agenda.
- Prior to the June meeting, Michael Almon on behalf of Lawrence Fruit Tree Project will submit a draft letter which will include the recommendations discussed tonight.
- At the June meeting, SAB will review the letter and recommend an action (i.e. approve to sign off on the letter).

SAB Recommendation of Replacement for One Board Member Vacancy

Board members discussed potential volunteers to fill the SAB vacancy (one seat) and what each of these individuals would add to the board.

Motion and second to recommend that the Mayor appoint Ian Spomer to the SAB (Sethi/Poull). The motion carried 8-0.

Staff will email the SAB recommendation to the City Manager's Office tomorrow.

Waste Reduction & Recycling Report and Earth Day Review

Kathy Richardson thanked SAB members for helping out with this year's Earth Day event. This year's event was the biggest one so far in terms of participation and the weather was perfect. The event report and photos are included to the WRR Report (see attached).

The WRR Report was emailed to SAB today (see attached). The City's recycling revenues are approximately \$73,000 higher than last year at this time with the same amount of tonnages collected. The board was also reminded that the yard trimmings tonnages listed on the report may change since staff is currently in the process of re-evaluating the estimated weight of yard trimmings.

Kathy Richardson announced that the City's Electronic Recycling Event will take place this Saturday, May 15th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Free State High School parking lot. Recycling of electronics will be provided by Extreme Recycling.

The board asked for an update on the Solid Waste Manager recruitment process. Kathy informed SAB that applications for the Solid Waste Manager position were due on April 13th and the first round of interviews will be scheduled starting next week.

Guest Comments and Miscellaneous

Agenda item for the next SAB meeting: Review and comment on the Mayor's Peak Oil Task Force (POTF) Draft Report. Kathy Richardson informed SAB that Cynthia Wagner, Assistant City Manager, indicated by email that the POTF Draft Report would be completed and sent to the SAB for review prior to the next scheduled board meeting. Michael Almon, member of the POTF, stating that POTF is planning to submit the Final Report to the City Commission in late August.

Also for future SAB meeting discussion: Does SAB wish to send/present their goal setting session notes and specific goals to the City Commissioners? Does SAB wish to post their goals, stakeholder comments and other related documents on the City's website? The board asked if staff can email them the paperwork or description of what SAB did last time after their goal setting meeting. Kathy Richardson will dig through the files and find out.

Action: Staff will post the SAB goals on the City's website.

Eileen Horn informed SAB that she is currently working on a work plan as Sustainability Coordinator and has met with County and City officials and staff. Eileen will bring her work plan to the June SAB meeting to share with the board and ask for their feedback. She also added that she received a sustainability policies and programs survey from Dave Corliss, City Manager. Eileen will share this sustainability survey with the board for discussion at the next meeting.

Michael Almon informed the board that the Women of League Voters submitted comments on the Environmental Chapter and thought this is something SAB may be interested in reviewing. He will forward their document to staff who will forward to the SAB.

Meeting adjourned 7:12 p.m.

Next meeting: June 9, 2010 at 5:30 pm.

Attachments:

- Waste Reduction and Recycling Division Report (includes Earth Day Celebration Report)



Waste Reduction and Recycling Division Report for the Sustainability Advisory Board (5/12/10)

RECYCLING PROGRAM REPORT

OLD CORRUGATED CONTAINERS (OCC)

Cardboard	Tons	Revenue
Current YTD	466.07	\$66,730.75
Prior YTD	407.60	\$13,933.10
Avg. Price/ton thru April 2010:	\$143.18	Avg. price/ton thru April 2009: \$34.18

OLD NEWSPAPERS (ONP)

Newspaper	Tons	Revenue
Current YTD	161.78	\$15,270.00
Prior YTD	203.41	\$4,701.57
Avg. Price/ton thru April 2010:	\$94.39	Avg. Price/ton thru April 2009: \$23.11

OFFICE WASTE PAPER (SOP)

Sorted Office Paper	Tons	Revenue
Current YTD	19.29	\$3,905.40
Prior YTD	21.91	\$1,971.90
Avg. Price/ton thru April 2010:	\$202.46	Avg. Price/ton thru April 2009: \$90.00

MIXED WASTE PAPER (MIX)

Mixed Paper	Tons	Revenue
Current YTD	112.42	\$7,697.78
Prior YTD	96.31	\$175.88
Avg. Price/ton thru April 2010:	\$68.47	Avg. Price/ton thru April 2009: \$1.83

<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>TONS</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
		759.56	\$93,603.93
Prior YTD		729.22	\$20,782.46

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) AND SMALL QUANTITY GENERATOR (SQG) PROGRAM REPORT

Month	HHW Drop-Offs	Battery Bags in Mail	Appt No Show	Home-bound	Saturday Collection	Abandoned Waste	Orphan Waste	SQG Inventory	SQG Drop-off	Product Reuse Appt
January	112	2	4	0	0	2	0	11	9	4
February	112	2	4	0	0	1	0	3	4	9
March	245	1	10	0	0	2	0	11	10	37
April	262	3	21	1	25	4	0	7	8	68
May										
June										
July										
August										
September										
October										
November										
December										
TOTAL	731	8	39	1	25	9	0	32	31	118

YARD TRIMMINGS COLLECTION AND COMPOST PROGRAM REPORT

<u>Yard Trimmings Collection: Year To Date</u>		Residential Tons Collected Curbside	Commercial Tons Received	Other Tons Received (Christmas Trees)	Total Tons This Month	Average Preferred Container Compliance
	2009 TOTAL	11,096.63	2,011.9	30.41	13,138.94	99.5%
2010	January	NA	7.9	26.65 (2,132 trees)	34.55	NA
	February	NA	18	NA	18	NA
	March	528.06	261.1	NA	789.16	99.5%
	April	1,738.52	349.2	NA	2,087.72	99.6%
	May					
	June					
	July					
	August					
	September					
	October					
	November					
	December					
		2010 TOTAL	2,266.58	636.20	26.65	2,929.43

*Total tonnage may change. The Solid Waste Division is in the process of evaluating the estimated weight of containers by weighing samples curbside once a month throughout the year.



10th Annual Earth Day Celebration

On Saturday, April 17, 2010, the City's Waste Reduction & Recycling Division hosted the 10th Annual Earth Day Celebration. Events included a parade hosted by KU Environs down Massachusetts Street from 7th to 11th Streets ending at a celebration in South Park. The Lawrence Transit System offered free rides all day, providing the experience and benefits of public transportation on all fixed routes.

Parade

The parade began at 11 a.m., and traveled from Watson Park east to Massachusetts Street, then south on Massachusetts Street from 7th to 11th Streets. The parade utilized only the southbound lane of Massachusetts Street. It was a beautiful day and many people came outside of shops and gathered on street corners to watch and wave as the parade proceeded to the celebration in South Park. Approximately 200 people from 30 different groups participated in the parade.

Celebration

The Celebration began at 11:30 a.m. with the arrival of the parade participants and many parade watchers. South Park activities were for all ages and included live music, informational booths, food vendors and, for the sixth consecutive year, the celebration featured April Showers to Water Towers: a Water Festival for Douglas County with activities focused on water quality and pollution prevention organized by the City's Stormwater Division. Water Festival participants included the City of Lawrence Stormwater Division, the Kansas Geological Survey, the Douglas County Farm Bureau Association, and the Kansas Biological Survey.

There were 63 informational tables at the celebration, with topics ranging from native plant education to electronics recycling to wetland preservation, as well as a caricature artist, the Recycle Cycle and a life-sized Elmo the kids could get pictures taken with. The City's Parks and Recreation Department lead two butterfly garden demonstrations and South Park tree identification tours throughout the afternoon. All activities were free and open to the public. An estimated 1,000 people passed through the celebration throughout the afternoon, peaking between 12 and 2 p.m. KLZR provided music and a live remote from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The 2 live music performances, *Random Rain* and *Big Stack Daddy*, began at 12:45 p.m. and kept the crowd entertained until the celebration ended at 4:00 p.m. Food vendors were a great benefit to the Celebration and included PJ's Concessions and Just Chillin Concessions.

Two other environmental events joined in the Celebration at South Park: Animal Outreach of Kansas hosted their "Great American Meat-Out" vegan cook-out at the park and "Read Out, Speak Out, Sing Out, Dance Out, Act Out for Earth Care" took place from 8 am to 8 pm in South Park. Both were well attended and enjoyed. In addition to the planned festivities, a juggler, a magician and The Balloon Man joined the Celebration to entertain the crowd.



Left: The Parade participants gather to await their start down Massachusetts, led by Eileen Horn with the Sustainability Advisory Board. Right: Jack Leipzig with the Living Green at the First Baptist Church group.



Left: Parks & Recreation staff distributes trees to citizens after a tour. Right: Celebration participants paint wooden bird houses at the South Mass Art Guild table.



Left: Members of KU Environs make recycled notebooks for kids, along with free face-painting. Right: Westar Energy staff and mascot entertaining a young Lawrence resident.



Left: Presenter entertains crowd at the Oread Friends Meeting’s “Read Out, Speak Out, Sing Out, Dance Out, Act Out for Earth Care.” Right: Participants of the Water Festival learn about watersheds and runoff at the Douglas County Farm Bureau Association’s table.



Left: Children decorate their own cardboard bird house at the Jayhawk Audubon Society table. Right: Citizens learn about seed cultivation at the Kaw Valley Seeds Project exhibit.



Left: Random Rain performs. Right: 940 Dance Company performs an interpretive dance representing environmental ideas in South Park.

Conclusion

The 10th Annual Earth Day Parade and Celebration was a great success! With the attendance estimated at 1000 people, this Earth Day Celebration drew a great crowd. Each year there is an increase in participation in the event as more people become environmentally-minded. With the down-turn in the economy, many people came out to find new ways to save money and reduce waste. With each successful environmental event, we create a more educated citizenry, and increase the environmental awareness within the Lawrence community.