

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

May 3, 2023 6:00 p.m.
City Hall 3rd Floor Council Chambers

MINUTES

1. Call to order & welcome new members

Call to order at 6:04pm. New members MollyJo Stanley. Last meeting for Katelyn. Sean Pierce here to transition.

2. Disposition of Minutes

Elaine moved to approve minutes, Amy seconded, all approved.

3. Next Meeting Date – June 7, 2023

4. Old Business

A. Commission Bylaws – All commissions are updating bylaws. Sam said boiler plate has all commission members starting on Jan 1. Discuss in Sept, nominate Oct, vote Nov. Aimee requested that if that is the case we need process/approval for temporary members (or that quorum for voting shall be decreased by number of current members). Katelyn pointed out that that is difficult for students. Are biannual appointments possible? Jan and July? Sam will talk to Council President Knisley about whether this is required. Also, says that members can't belong to commission for more than two full terms, then have to go off commission for one term before rejoining. Katelyn suggested that maybe we could say that people have to leave if someone is waiting but otherwise can be reappointed if they apply. Commission agreed that this might be a good idea for members to get a break after 6 years. Commission shall meet at least 6 times annually. Katelyn pointed out that it might be nice to have language for medical leaves and how that affects quorum. Sarah pointed out that it might make sense to say medical leave only lasts up to 90 days. Officers – there are supposed to be Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary positions. Official nominating committee, send slate to committee in Nov, etc. Quite a process. Aimee suggested that all of the boards are notified if these processes are mandatory. Standing committees shall include but are not limited to – lots of different committees – Sarah suggested that we change language to “may include”. Katelyn pointed out that we have had lots of different committees – chicken committee, biodiversity committee. MollyJo asked about official communications of open positions – it was announced on city website this time. Communications are not particularly dictated.

B. Plastic Bag Ordinance

It was passed this week! Council member Swank publicly thanked committee. Roll out will be Jan 1.

C. OU Move Out

Ed is not here because he is in the middle of MoveOut. Commission members received

signup sheet. Webpage came out with information about what can be recycled/upcycled

D. Earth Day Recap

Sam said it was a great day and Aimee's keynote address was awesome. Is already starting to think about next year. Aimee said that the thrift store was good, day went great, EV showcase was good too. Question about why Earth Day Celebration was on April 27 – can't get Walter Rotunda reserved.

Weeding at Michael Stanley park by Katelyn, Sam, Aimee and Elaine.

E. Rodenticides

Table until next month, so that members can report on research for most humane form of treatment and best practices. Megan Westervelt has some information about New Zealand methods and may report back at some point about this.

F. Backyard Chickens

Drew approached Aimee about what is happening with this, but we may be called on at some point for recommendation or draft language. Timing may not have been right before.

G. Dark Skies

Katelyn send a link to paper and one that she couldn't download. One was about how eyes adjust better to red light and won't get blinded. Other was about projected area in Texas and study to show that shielded light provides better visibility without light pollution. OU is supposed to have shielding in Design and Construction Standards as of today. Ohio Light's Out program out of OSU from bird conservation deals with this. Comment from Sarah that Peden and Intramural Fields are very brights.

5. New Business

Received a letter congratulations about plastics ordinance and asked about polystyrene ban too. Styrofoam recycling in Cincinnati.

6. Announcements and Updates

Lindy Roosenburg Preserve opened this past weekend. Near Jobs and Family Services building at top of hill on Sand Ridge Road. Oldest basswood trees, beautiful forest, old mail trail where horses used to go.

Appalachian Ohio Alliance leading a walk in Bison Hollow Sunday 2-4pm.

Appalachian Understory is hosting Birds in the hills

Elaine and Sam have new position titles – Sam Director of Sustainability, Elaine Director of Energy Management

7. Adjournment

Katelyn moved to adjourn at 6:57pm

MollyJo seconded