



The purpose of the Sustainability Advisory Board is to advise the Governing Body of the City of Lawrence, Kansas, regarding issues affecting sustainability, environmental protection, waste reduction, recycling, energy conservation and natural resource conservation environmental protection.

## **MINUTES**

**October 9, 2019 – 5:30 pm**

MEETING LOCATION: Parks and Recreation Administration Building in South Park, 1141 Massachusetts St, Lawrence, KS 66044

**Members present:** Jackie Carroll, Kay Johnson, Allison Koonce, Kira McPherson, Michael Steinle, Lei-Lei Mitchell, and Morgan Orozco

**Members not present:** Rachel Krause, Deb Ford, Ma’Ko Quah Jones

**Staff present:** Jasmin Moore, Kathy Richardson

**Public present:** Several members of the public were present

**October 9, 2019 – 5:30 pm**

### **I. SAB Administration:**

- a. Introductions and new member, Morgan Orozco.
- b. Terms expire December 31, 2019 for four members and all are eligible for reappointment, if interested.

### **II. Discussion: Downtown pedestrian recycling containers (Morgan Orozco)**

- a. Noticed that there is a problem with contamination of the recycling containers in downtown Lawrence. There is also not much content that qualifies as recyclables. Previously brought this up with the City Commission, and the issue was referred to the Sustainability Advisory Board.
- b. Staff update: Parks & Rec is responsible for collection of trash and recyclable material in downtown. A small scale audit of the downtown pedestrian recycling within the last year revealed a significant amount of contamination (trash mixed in with recyclable material). When there are events downtown the contamination rate can get up to 50%. On a normal week contamination rate is about 25%. This is very high compared to city-wide single stream recycling collection, which has a contamination rate below 6%. A best practice for public recycling is to include visual signage. However, there will still be contamination. Staff is working with HAAM to identify and pilot an alternative lids to the recycling containers in downtown.

- c. All single stream materials, including all plastics 1-7, are still being collected and the HAMM Material Recovery Facility is selling those materials. One of the most challenging types of plastics is the rigid tubs. Kathy Richardson will present information about all the city's recycling programs at the December 11 SAB meeting.
- III. CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Determine quorum of members. 5:54 pm
- IV. Approve September meeting minutes. Motion by Michael, Second by Kira. Motion passed.
- V. Discussion: [Kansas City Climate Action Summit](#) and Global Covenant of Mayors Climate Leadership Project Workshop
  - a. Several hundred people attended the Climate Action Summit on September 14.
  - b. The [Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy](#) (GCoM) is an international alliance of cities and local governments with a shared long-term vision of promoting and supporting voluntary action to combat climate change and move to an inclusive, just, low emission, resilient society. On October 1-2, 2019, the Mid-America Regional Council hosted a two-day workshop for stakeholders to kick off the process to develop a regional Climate Action Plan, including a Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment. See the presentations from those two days [here](#). It is projected that a climate policy playbook for local governments will be published before the end of the year.
  - c. Recommendation for Lawrence to join the Metro KC Climate Action Coalition is on the October 15 City Commission Agenda.
- VI. Subcommittee report and discussion: Climate Action Planning
  - a. Kira volunteered to be the chair of this subcommittee. Staff will coordinate with the members of the subcommittee to schedule a meeting before the November
- VII. Staff Report
  - a. SAB's recommendation to the City to sign on to the Climate & Health Declaration is on the October 15 City Commission Agenda.
  - b. Lawrence and Douglas County Sustainability Office new staff: Food System and Sustainability Analyst, Kim Criner Ritchie
  - c. There may be an opportunity to collaborate with the Arts and Culture Commission on climate engagement. Two SAB members (Morgan & Kira) volunteered to participate in a brainstorming session about opportunities to connect art and climate. Staff will coordinate.
  - d. Single-use Plastic staff assessment.
    - i. City legal staff developed a legal opinion analyzing the city's ability to implement a fee. The opinion states that the office believes that it may very well be possible to craft an ordinance so that the proposed \$0.16 exactment would constitute a lawful "fee" rather than an unlawful "excise tax." However, there are a variety of challenges with the collection of a fee.

ii. Motion by Michael to submit a formal recommendation to the City Commission that the City of Lawrence implement a ban on single-use plastics as previously defined in the initial recommendation and in accordance with staff findings regarding fees. The reasons for the recommendation are well-documented in the initial Single-Use Plastics Report. Second by Morgan. Motion passed.

iii. Staff will continue to work on language and definitions in the development of an ordinance.

e. City Manager Craig Owens gave a 100 day report to the City Commission. Video is available here <https://youtu.be/guWhQvIAFks> starting at 4:14:00.

VIII. Key takeaways to share with the City Commission

IX. Future Agenda Items

a. Municipal Services & Operations Department: Introduce new staff, reorganization, relevant operations- November

a. 2018 energy code – November

b. Renewable Energy subcommittee- November

c. Single-stream recycling and end markets- December

d. Lawrence air quality analysis & Microplastics – December

e. Chair and vice chair elections- December

X. Member Updates

a. Jackie attended the City Commission meeting (10/8/19) about becoming a sanctuary city.

b. Michael will be the chair of the Food Policy Council for the remainder of the year.

c. Kay's company, Prosoco, signed the Climate and Health Declaration.

d. Kay- [Bat Week](#) is coming up, October 24-21! Promoting bat health and habitat.

e. Morgan- Vice Chair of Kansas High School Democrats. Recently attended the Climate Strike. Working on movement to get more people under 20 on advisory boards.

XI. Public Comment

a. Citizens Climate Lobby, asking for guidance on how they might get an endorsement from the city for [H.R.763 - Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019](#) (federal bill). Carbon fee and dividend. KC has already endorsed it. Meeting with all the municipalities in Kansas City.

XII. Adjourn 7:34 pm.

**Next regular SAB meeting:**

November 13, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

Venue: Parks and Recreation Administration Building in South Park, 1141 Massachusetts St, Lawrence, KS 66044