

**ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION MEETING (Virtual)
JAN 12, 2022**

Attendance

Members Present (via Zoom Call): Dennis Healy, Patrick Walker, Sarah Flem, Katie Stock, Lauren Albarella

City Council Representative: Nancy Averett

City Staff Representative: Rob Nicolls

Start of Meeting

Welcome to Nancy Averett, City Council Representative for 2022

Approval of November 10, 2021, Meeting Minutes

The November 10, 2021 meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

Solid Waste/Recycling Update

- Rob review of numbers
- Recycling base average for the year 26%
- Adjusted recycling for the year 35%
- Pounds per household seem high at end of the year - is this seasonality at play due to holidays
- Important announcement: Wyoming received the "Best City Diversion Rate" for 2021 by Hamilton County - award just received by Rob, day of meeting
- The County wants a photo at some point and they will write a blurb for us to share from a press standpoint

Educational Plan

Green Business Award update

- Awards were presented at the City Council meeting last month
- Timing of awards going forward? In previous years, they were presented a bit earlier in the year
- Waited to end of the year for 2021 due to Covid
- Seems to be no strong opinion about timing - looks like we will keep to a similar cadence
- Kick-off in September and wrap up by end of year

Green Your School Update

- Interested primary school teachers have received the application with an invitation from Gina Kirchner (primary school Principal) to submit
- The application was also given to high school environmental group, Club HOPE
- The concept of pairing high school students with primary students to work on a joint application was also presented to all parties
- Lauren to follow with all interested teachers/students via email to check progress and offer assistance (on behalf of the PSA Green Team)

Miscellaneous

Stormwater event with Urban Forestry (March 5, 2022)

- A lot of coordination and prep work to be done on this
- Seem a little bit stalled on pulling the event together and lining up presenters
- Potential speakers: Ryan Geismar to represent stormwater study groups/ educational plan and Jen Eismeier to talk about Mill Creek watershed
- Sarah was going to contact Hamilton County Conservation Rep - educate residents on stormwater runoff mitigation strategies
- Patrick will follow up with Ryan and check-in with Sarah to get her feedback on Hamilton County Rep
- Bobbi is waiting for feedback from ESC on what we have done so far
- She arranged a speaker to come from Glenwood Gardens
- Given all the loose ends - push the event to April (potentially outside?) to provide more time to get it together and also hopefully be further out from current Covid surge
- An adjunct professor at UC who used to research stormwater for the city is going to help with some Sterns Woods planting tracking, he may be a good fit to present
- Nancy will talk to Bobbi to see if date delay would be amenable
- Need to work around Upcycle day and spring holiday/school closings
- Actions on this:
 - Propose a different date (April 23rd or 30th depending on event space availability - prob early afternoon) to Urban Forestry (Nancy)
 - Patrick will try and pull together additional speakers as noted above
 - Will take Feb ESC meeting to do some firm planning around content and marketing plan

Community Gardens Clean Up

- Gate combination change - supposed to happen once a year (and it hasn't been changed)
- However, it does not appear to be an issue (ie with misuse of gardens)
- Committee agrees no need to change combo if it hasn't been an issue - not worth hassle to gardeners

Eco Styrofoam Event Review

- Patrick - it was cold!
- Seems like logistically it might not be enough for the hassle of a one-off event and during a typical cold time
- It was beneficial for Eco and good for them in terms of collection
- Overall it was a positive
- After some discussion, decided it is better to keep the collection to Upcycle Day (esp if Eco is reluctant to participate more than once per year)
- What was the volume? No details yet but it seemed to be significant
- Patrick will report back on numbers when he gets them
- Eco turned out to be very lenient on the 'rules'
- Patrick had a good experience interacting with Eco staff and learning more about their facilities

2022 Topics

- Upcycle Day
 - Need to start reaching out to vendors - Patrick
 - Patrick also compiling messaging and presentations to the new council
 - Ideally have educational plan ironed out before then
 - Nancy advises meeting with Melissa as Mayor - try and get early buy-in - just a suggestion
 - Plan is to get through this year's junk and Upcycle Day and go from there
 - Patrick wants to make an Upcycle logo sign - can we get a sign sitting somewhere in the city - like the size of a yield sign - Rob looking into it
- Educational Plan / Messaging
 - Reminder on educational postcard /magnet - postage + card about \$6,000 (price is a barrier)
 - Debated different ways to get this information out again
 - Stickers game up - Debby was looking into it
 - Do we solicit input from the Council at this point and see what they have to say?
 - Alternative investment - put it into the website with good graphic design and use the money that way instead of a hard copy mailing - reach more people on a more long term sustainable basis
 - Nancy idea: use Wyoming Living advertising space to share information (that way postage is covered with wide circulation and we are just paying ad cost)
 - All agree this is a good plan - Nancy to check on rates with Amy
 - Need to ensure design is up to date and verbiage correct (Sarah and Patrick reviewing and updating)
 - Sarah will resend to the group for another review and update
 - Goal is to "get it right" so no specific timing deadline - will keep working through until we are all ready and comfortable

Other Misc. - School environmental activities

- High School - Plan to do a collection of Terracycle type items for the Cincinnati Recycling and Reuse Hub on Feb 5th

- Middle school - Currently collecting plastic caps and lids in partnership with Green Tree Plastics, a company out of Evansville, IN that manufactures recycled plastic into park furniture
 - They want to collect 3,000 pounds of caps/lids to convert to park benches for one of the school courtyards as a part of a beautification project
- Lauren to circulate details on each to ESC