AGENDA
Environmental Advisory Board
September 25, 2019 at 7:00pm
Mahany/Meininger Senior/Community Center
3500 Marias Avenue
Royal Oak, MI 48073


Absent: S. Douglas, J. Lyons-Bricker, P. Lemme, T. Purrenhage, W. Gontina

Public: A. Bueche, N. Marcelletti, D. Sloan,

1. Approval of May 2019 Minutes

2. Greg Rassel Report - SOCCRA moving ahead well with recycling prices holding steady. In the future, looking at a program that would provide residents with garbage can(s) using the money from mileage. New garbage cans might slow down trash pickup – trucks on road longer.

3. City Commissioner Report – Shar Douglas – Absent

4. Public Comment:
   - David Sloan – Saw a tv program that discussed recycling being sent back from Indonesia. We have to get into reusing items instead of putting them into recycling. David’s son works on climate change at the UN. All the countries, but one, have signed on to support UN goals. Prime mister of New Zealand talked about climate change this week and getting away from single use plastics.
   - Ann Bueche – from the plan review committee. Specifically wanted to attend ROEAB meeting to discuss the tree canopy in Royal Oak.
   - Nick Marcelletti – Licensed professional geologist. Works for environmental consultant. He asked if the city of Royal Oak has any demolition rules? Concerned about asbestos, lead and dust contamination. Thinks that the city needs some specific codes regarding demolition of houses and buildings. He is familiar with some codes that Detroit has adopted. G. Rassel suggest finding a model being used in a neighboring community or champion for the cause. T. Regan and J. Acevedo are interested in this project.

5. Updates/Discussion:
   - Recycling Event on September 21, 2019 (A. Herzog) - 150 drop offs. SEMCOG gift bags given out. 2825 lbs. of paper shredded.
   - Energy Efficiency Day Proclamation Sept 23rd - Energy Efficiency Day Proclamation signed by the city commission. Designating October 2, 2019 Energy Efficiency Day. This EE Day is a nationwide recognition of energy efficiency as a viable option for energy waste and pollution/emissions reduction. Hope to get a sustainability web page up where EE tips and relevant links can be posted for residential and business applications. See https://www.energyefficiencyday.org/ and flyers for more info.
   - Environmental Lecture Series DUE Oct 5th (A. Herzog):
     1. M2Bee – Works with Bees in the D
     2. Andrew Sarpolis (water) – rain garden and maybe talk with Jim Nash
     3. Consumers and DTE will talk about energy rebates
   - Roam Home Event Oct 19th (C. Hartwig) – ROAM HOME – participate in Middle School event. Passing out information. Saturday, Oct. 19 noon to 3pm. ROEAB has a table. They want to have a raffle. Asking to donate raffle prizes. See raffle.prize.gov
   - Royal Oak Tree Canopy (Ann/Amanda): Royal Oak Tree Canopy – planning commission- best urban forest programs.
Already have a good tree canopy but how can we make it better? Ann from the planning commission. We should have an ordinance on heritage trees? More stringent requirements on trees that are going to be removed. Plant native Michigan Trees. If over 12-inch trunk. Movement towards best Urban Forest. Royal Oak received 2019 Tree City USA award.

- Sustainability Plan (Julie): City staff is still working on the last prerequisite for the USGBC- LEED for Cities certification submission.(Should be fully submitted at end of this week) It has been a long slog, but through this work many metrics for energy and GHG emissions, water consumption, tree canopy and green space, current resiliency plans for city (PD, Beaumont, SOCWA), waste and recycling tonnage, etc. has been collected. This collected information will help drive our future sustainability plan goal setting work.

  Staff also working on energy efficiency initiatives:
  - All municipal buildings have been entered int the EPA’s Portfolio Manager utility tracking software
  - City has signed up to participate in the DTE Strategic Energy Program (SEP-used to assess buildings’ energy use status, create goals, and work toward maximum efficiency)
  - No cost energy assessments from the utilities have been started at the animal shelter and the 44th District Court. (goal is to get all buildings done so we have an energy use baseline for each)
  - Researching our DTE rates to make sure all accounts have the correct rate charge and adjust the ones that don’t.

Also, we submitted details and metrics to the 2019 Michigan Green Communities Challenge. It looks like we can score Bronze. (maybe next year Silver???) There is a sustainability conference in Nov. where the awards will be handed out. We just joined the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN)- a nationwide group of municipal sustainability practitioners where networking, sharing new ideas and accomplishments, and best practices. The annual meeting will be held in Detroit this year in Oct. Many of our peer city sustainability connections mentioned to me on separate occasions that this membership is far and away the best first step for a city wanting to craft a sustainability plan and move forward with green initiatives. Looking forward to diving in.

- MRF Tour--Rescheduled November 20th (Tracy)
- RO 100 Year Anniversary (2021) – 100 Green Ideas city/citizens could do Or Install 100kw solar power in the city.

- Green Team - Theresa retired. A new Green Team coordinator, Adrienne Breznau. We also have two new members, Julianna Tshirhart-planning and Erin Koch-senior center. The team is working on tracking recycling at city buildings, a composting pilot program for library staff, and re-starting the Green Minute, a short monthly email with green tips/info for city staff members. The team looks forward to partnering on future projects with EAB. Greg approved expanding the composting pilot program to the senior center

- Other Updates/Discussion: Lawrence Tech Stormwater Summit – Oct. 4, 2019

6. Important Dates:
- Jim Rine Citizens Climate Lobby, Senior Center Oct 5th at 10A

- Next Meeting: October 23, 2019

- Motion to adjourn – K. Pierson. T. Regan – second.