

**Sustainability Advisory Committee**

**Minutes**

**December 11, 2019 5:30PM**

**In Attendance:** Jim Triplett, George Weeks, Nancy Scott, Denise Fitzpatrick, Andrew Ouellette, Tim Dawsey, Sarah Chenoweth, Jeremy Johnson, Jay Byers, Cameron Alden, James Cox

Meeting called to order at 5:35pm

**Meeting location:** City Hall

Welcome and introductions

Approval of the Agenda

Special Presentation by Dr. Tim Dawsey

Dr. Tim Dawsey, director of the Kansas Polymer Research Center, spoke about the grant the Kansas Polymer Research Center received. The polymer capacity in the Pittsburg area is massive. The plastics program in the PSU College of Technology has a two and a four-year plastics program and has a 100% job placement rate. They wrote a grant to the NIST based around workforce need and received $300k to upgrade the plastic lab. They are looking at research opportunities around utilization of recyclable materials and in implementing a curriculum that will talk about various concepts of recycling. Businesses and researchers are interested in the opportunities available in Pittsburg. They are writing more proposals for more upgrades because, with updated labs, more businesses will want to come to Pittsburg.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Approval of 11/12/19 Minutes

Minutes unanimously approved

Update on Resale Center

Jim had a meeting with PSU Construction Technology, Enactus, PSU Sustainability committee, and the City to discuss the resale center. They are looking for students to lead resale program. As this will be setup as a business, this will be taken to the small business development center for assistance.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Report on AASHE Trip

Jim went with some people from the Recycling center and some students from the sustainability committee. They showed some posters about programs that are going on in Pittsburg.

Earth Day 2020

Denise mentioned that Earth Day is on Wednesday, April 22nd, this year. As the timing isn’t the best, we could do something on the weekend. Maybe a subcommittee created to plan it.

Citizens’ Climate Lobby

Denise heard Tony Schmidt, from the Citizen’s Climate Lobby, speak at the library. He talked about the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, which is a bi-partisan proposal in the Senate. The City of Lawrence wrote a letter in support of the act. Pittsburg or the committee could do the same. He also spoke of the need to address the use of coal to prevent catastrophic climate effects. Tony said he could come and speak with the committee.

Jim stated that the Climate and Energy Project will be holding an event for government and elected officials to educate them about renewable energy.

Jay suggested having a video call with Tony before bringing him down so that we can get a better idea of what he wants.

Future Initiatives for Committee

George had driven two electric vehicles in the last couple weeks and is also looking at buying one. Electric vehicles are coming but the range needs to be something that works for the person. There are companies are working on increasing the speed to charge the vehicles. George suggested having an electric vehicle showcase for Earth Day.

Andrew asked about who was taking over the social media account with Joel leaving. Jay said that, due to legal reasons and new social media policies at the City, it would be taken in house and managed by the City.

Denise is interested in “thinking sustainable” to get people to think about sustainability and how their actions promote sustainability.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Adjourned at 7:03pm