



**Community Services Advisory Commission**  
**June 14, 2022**  
**Minutes**

**Commission Members: Present:** Elizabeth McClain, Vivek Arunachalam, Steve Dritz, Dee Kanonchoff, Rex Pryor, Hong Qiu, Vicki Von Sadovszky

**Absent:** None

**Staff Members Present:** Robert Ranc, Deputy City Manager/COO  
Jay Anderson, Director of Public Service  
Emily Goliver, Management Analyst DCM/COO  
Sarah Holt, Senior Planner

**Guests:** Alex Herridge, Dublin Resident  
Kathy Speelman Kramer, Dublin Resident  
Tony Von Sadovszky, Dublin Resident  
Carl Gleditsch, Dublin Resident  
Ken Larson, Dublin Resident  
Petra Schmalbrock, Dublin Resident

**I. Call to Order**

Ms. McClain established a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**II. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda**

No public comments.

**III. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the May 10 meeting were distributed for review via email. Ms. McClain asked if anyone had any changes to the meeting minutes. Ms. Von Sadovszky made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Kanonchoff seconded the motion. All in favor, the May meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

**IV. Native Plants – Robert Ranc**

Mr. Ranc first congratulated Ms. McClain and Ms. Qiu on their appointment of Chair and Vice Chair for the commission. Mr. Ranc said this evening he would be discussing native plants and their use in the City and potential ideas for use in the City. Mr. Ranc said in March, Council member Amy Kramb, along with staff from the Division of Planning and Outreach and Engagement met with Mr. Carl Gleditsch, a resident who is a biologist, naturalist, melittologist and beekeeper. Mr. Gleditsch provided a presentation regarding the importance of native plants and naturalized areas. This

presentation was sent by e-mail to the commission prior to this meeting. City Council referred this topic of discussion to CSAC at the March 21, 2022 City Council meeting.

Mr. Ranc provided some background as it relate native plants:

- There are 21 designated native prairies/naturalized areas within the City's park system
- Approximately 80 acres have been converted that would otherwise be maintained as mowed turf or taken over by invasive species
- Prairies and meadows are mowed once per year to control the establishment of woody invasive species, and to help distribute seed from existing plants
- Prairies are seeded periodically to increase biodiversity of plant material, and to make the prairies more visually appealing

Mr. Ranc introduced Jay Anderson, Director of Public Service, who is in charge of the parks maintenance along with the City's forestry and horticulture operations. He also introduced Sarah Holt from the City's planning division and she is here to assist with any reference to development code and planning.

Mr. Ranc provided some photos of the native areas in Dublin along with a list of the locations where there are City prairies and naturalized areas. This information was also provided to the CSAC prior to the meeting.

Mr. Ranc went on to discuss some ideas for native plants. Staff took Mr. Gleditsch's presentation and a starting point to talk about staff ideas on ways that the City can continue to implement and integrate native species in the City. Those ideas discussed are:

- Work with HOA's to provide education regarding the benefits of native plants
  - Some may have concerns regarding aesthetics
  - Work with HOA leadership to provide education regarding the benefit of native plants, both environmentally and aesthetically
  - Encourage HOA leadership to modify landscape requirements to allow the use of more native plants
- Demonstrate landscaping with native plants on City property
  - City already has flower beds in select locations (i.e. M.L. "Red" Trabue) that use native plants
  - The City can increase the use of native plants in landscaping on City property to demonstrate attractive landscaping using native plants
- Provide educational opportunities and other information via City website and social media
  - Provide information including potential funding sources (grants, etc.), alternative species guides for the use of native plants, certification opportunities, and frequently asked questions

- Incorporate activities regarding the use of the native plants in programming such as Earth Month, partnerships with schools, etc.
- Evaluate new developments for opportunities to encourage native plants in landscape plans

Mr. Ranc said this concludes his presentation and he opened it up for questions and discussion.

Ms. Kanonchoff commented that where she worked had beautiful landscaping. When walking around the landscaping small signs with the name, and in some cases a brief description of the plants, were located along the landscaping so people knew what the plants were. That would be a great idea for the City to do in the beds where there are native plants, so residents can become familiar with what those native plants are.

Ms. Qiu said she is very happy to hear about the efforts that the City is trying to promote. She asked how the City would promote this among residential areas and the neighborhoods. She asked if the City would provide educational information and resources as to where homeowners can purchase native plants.

Mr. Ranc said the education portion would be an important part of the City's outreach. Staff will work closely with our communications and public information staff to get information out to residents and explain what native plants are where to find them and how to establish them. Staff will also communicate about the activities and events that the City already has that surround the environment and sustainability. We will also work with our leadership staff and our homeowner association leadership as well to get information out to them so they are educated to encourage homeowners.

Mr. Dritz commented that in Mr. Gleditsch's presentation provided to the commission he mentions the use of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers can be a detriment to wildlife. Mr. Dritz asked if the City is doing anything relative to using more types of fertilizers and applications.

Mr. Anderson said staff has used some natural fertilizers and chemicals in some test areas. Overall staff has not made the switch one way or another. We are stilling using common fertilizers, but we only apply when we absolutely have to. Staff has cut way back on our fertilizer usage over the years, and have reduced the amount of phosphates that we are putting out and we will continue as technology continues to advance the use of organics and other similar items. We are always very concerned and cautious in our park system and especially around our waterways, so we will continue to explore new opportunities as they present themselves.

Ms. Kanonchoff commented that in one of the last few years the City gave away a native plant on Earth Day. She was curious as to whether the City would do that again.

Mr. Anderson said yes, the City has provided plantings during this event. We have handed out trees, evergreens and different plant material based on availability, but we will continue to hand out something.

Ms. Qiu commented that believes the discussion of native plants is one discussion, but on the other side of that discussion, there are quite a few invasive plants. What is the City's long-term strategic plan for the invasive plants?

Mr. Anderson replied that the City could only hope to manage invasive species. We know we will never be able to completely eradicate it from our environment, so what we do is that we have a scorecard for all of our woodlots that we base our maintenance plans on. We try to preserve or protect our most precious areas. The City will demonstrate our staff hours and contractual hours to preserving those areas to mitigate the honeysuckle. We will focus on our areas where we have unique species and trees that we want to make sure we preserve long term. The City does use many volunteers to manage honeysuckle removal efforts, as well as staff time and contractual work.

Mr. Ranc also commented that the City just completed a portion of our Waterways Maintenance Program, which we discussed with this commission in the past. A part of what staff will be doing in regards to this program is looking at corridors around City streams, where staff can look at those areas to see if there are invasive species that would be affecting streams with reference to increasing proclivity towards flooding, that we can remove. Agreeing with what Mr. Anderson stated it is a management process, which can be extremely difficult especially with honeysuckle.

Carl Gleditsch introduced himself to the commission. Mr. Gleditsch is a wildlife biologist also with a degree in chemistry and he has a strong interest in pollination and bees. Retired industrial chemist of 31 years. Mr. Gleditsch commented that the City does a great job at protecting a lot of green space. What initially peaked Mr. Gleditsch's interest is when Hopewell Elementary School was built next to where he lives. He felt like the landscaping was atrocious. When he approached the school at some of the public meetings that took place during construction and asked what the landscaping plans were; he was told the budget was already set and plans were already done. Since then there have been a few more projects underway such as a nursing facility, a hospital and more housing. So rather than going through the motions like they did with the school, he approached the Planning Division to see what could be done about updating City Ordinances to when developers come in, they can add some type of landscaping rather than just grass and junipers to their landscaping plans. That is really where his interest started. He would like to see developers put back some productive plants that are good for the wildlife. Mr. Gleditsch did speak with the developer for the nursing facility and the hospital. The developer of the nursing facility really seemed to be on board with adding some better landscaping. Mr. Gleditsch still feels like the City needs to put something in place to make them more accountable for this.

Mr. Gleditsch provided also some additional information:

- More communities are moving towards native plant material
- OSU does a fabulous job of education for native plants, insects and bees.
  - Offer many outreach program, which have increased through the community and state
- More nurseries are starting to provide native plants due to the demand

- Burden for developers should be less since more nurseries are providing product
- Tremendous community resources among residents in attendance tonight
  - Kathy Kramer continually working with City to decrease invasive and turn into native plants
- Nature's Best Hope written by Douglas W. Tallamy is a great book to read
  - Talks about ways to get green space away from turf and more into native plants
- Public is willing to help if the City sees fit to move forward.

Mr. Gleditsch asked if anyone had any questions for him.

Mr. Dritz said in Mr. Gleditsch's mentioned in his presentation that the starting cost was more, but he asked if the maintenance would be less.

Mr. Gleditsch said the maintenance would be less. Native plants are easier to grow, they are used to our soils and drought resistant, so they are must easier to maintain. Native plants have become more available, so the cost of native plants have gone down, so the cost should not be as big of a deal now. Mr. Gleditsch also commented that in a conversation with Barbara Ray, she mentioned that Dublin residents like things to be green all year round. He did not feel that was necessarily true. People think native plant beds look bad, but that not true either. You can look can look at some of the prairies Dublin has planted and see how great they look.

Mr. Dritz also asked in reference to education HOA's, is that so HOA's can make their common areas more native or is it so residential homes have more native plants.

Mr. Gleditsch said this could promote native plants for both the common areas and residential yards.

Ms. Qiu said she thought it was a great idea, but would need to be educate on how to access native plant material and how to maintain them so they look nice.

Mr. Gleditsch replied that there is much more information available now, as well as product. The City could provide more information on their website for residents to access.

Mr. Dritz commented that has observed there are more bees now and he feels like the environment is getting healthy again since there are more bees.

Mr. Gleditsch commented that although on nice day you may see more bees out, there are actually less than there used to be. As well, the number of birds have decreased throughout Ohio because we have less native plants.

Mr. Dritz asked Mr. Gleditsch if he thinks the City missed an opportunity with native plants in the development of Bridge Park.

Mr. Gleditsch commented that there is a lot of concrete in Bridge Park. In areas where there could have been native plants, the City has put some, but there is probably more that could have been done with that area when it was developed.

Ms. McClain asked if there is an opportunity for the City to work with the schools. It would be a great education opportunity to take advantage of.

Mr. Ranc apologized for the oversight in adding that to his presentation, but certainly working with the schools is absolutely something the City can do. The City has a great relationship with the school district and there would probably be a lot of interest in this regard, so staff can reach out to the schools and find ways to utilize some of the very talented students we have.

Mr. Gleditsch also commented that he works with the elementary schools in Dublin to teach about bees and native plants. He was very disappointed to find there is no curriculum based around nature, plants and bees. The teacher he works with said there are over 120 languages within Dublin City Schools and their priority is to teach reading, writing and math first. She commented that students would learn more about this as they move into other grades.

Ms. Kanonchoff said as far as education, she feels the City should also provide information for the residents about the use of pesticides and other chemicals. She has brought this up before to Mr. Ranc's predecessor, but it stopped there. In the development of the education portion, the City needs to give information to residents about the decrease use of pesticides so that plants and pollinators are not being killed.

Mr. Ranc said there is a great opportunity for all of that information to get out within the public outreach and public education. We put out a lot of information and we need to blend this information in with what we are putting together for education. The City's communication and public information staff does an excellent job of getting information out to our residents in fun ways where people are actually interested in learning about the information the City is providing instead of just reading it.

Kathy Speelman Kramer, Dublin resident, introduced herself. She is a resident on Wexford Woods drive and her property is adjacent to M.L. "Red" Trabue, so he woodlot becomes the park woodlot. She has lived there in 2007 and in 2010 she starting learning about invasive plants and started volunteering for the City to help remove invasive species from the woodlot. The first year she removed garlic mustard from her own yard and an adjacent part of the park, which was about 139 feet deep by 70 feet wide. This took her approximately 80 hours. According to ODNR, garlic mustard is one of the top ten invasive species in the State of Ohio. Ms. Kramer has continued this year after year. This year she removed garlic mustard from her entire side yard, some from the park and some from across the street (total of about 6 acres) in about four hours and forty-five minutes. So doing this year after year has had an incredible impact, but what is much more exciting is the number of native species, because the seed bank was there, have come back. If you have not seen that in the spring, you really need to.

Ms. Kramer commented that although she does not have a formal background in native plants, she is passionate about native plants. She did some research on the City's website and reviewed the City's code in regards to the City's landscaping and tree preservation. There are a number of species on both list that have been identified as invasive species and the City is telling developers to go ahead and plant these, but we know they are invasive. She would love to volunteer to work with the City to get those lists updated and the invasive species removed from them.

Ms. Holt said she would give Ms. Kramer her business card after the meeting. Ms. Hold said would definitely like to meet with Ms. Kramer to get some more information from Ms. Kramer and talk about what the City should remove from the lists.

Ms. Von Sadvoszky said she suggested that when the City does the education for the City that they includes some of these examples. These stories are very powerful about how the community is coming together and there is nothing more motivating than seeing what our fellow citizens are doing to help with this. It would be great to provide the "how to" on how the residents got started and sustain it. It would be very powerful to read that in any of the publications out there.

Mr. Ranc thanked Ms. Von Sadvoszky for her suggestions. He thinks this is a great idea.

Ms. Qiu thanked Ms. Kramer. Ms. Qiu said she lives near M.L. "Red" Trabue and visits that park all of the time. She did not realize that Ms. Kramer had done some much of this work. Ms. Qiu said she would like to talk to Ms. Kramer after the meeting and join forces to help do her part to help improve the environment.

Petra Schmalbrock said she is not a Dublin City resident, but she is a Dublin School District resident. She has done native plant gardening at her residence for about ten years. Since retiring, she has been involved in various aspects of urban environmental restoration. Ms. Schmalbrock said that Mr. Gleditsch has focused very much on the diversity of the insect and plants, which is very important, but she believes there are many additional benefits. Ms. Schmalbrock said because perennial and native plants have such long roots, it helps improve water quality. The larger trees, plants and shrubs can help with pollution. In addition, when you do not dig up the soil all the time, the soil can hold four times as much carbon than the air. So using native plants can help with the current restoration and different aspects of pollution and can help the City maintain and restore the environment.

Kent Larson said he is a Dublin resident who has lived in Muirfield since 1988. He said to overcome the country club perfect lawn is not going to be easy. He does not feel this should be legislative and making people do this. Residents should do this because they want to. The reason residents are not doing this now is that they do not know about it. The focus should be about the education aspect. He suggested reading at least chapter 10 of the book Mr. Gleditsch referenced earlier, if nothing else. It states, that we do not have to take our whole yard to be effective, but just a small

portion. If everyone would do this, the City would have the largest national park in the country. Mr. Larson said do not focus on the legislative part of this, but focus on the educational part of it.

Ms. McClain thanked all of the guests for their input and feedback. She does understand that the enforcement of this would be difficult, so we should make it something people want to do.

Mr. Ranc also commented that from a staff perspective, it is very gratifying to see so many residents here. We often do not get people that are so passionate on a topic. It really helps and enriches our conversation and provide that feedback that staff needs. Mr. Ranc commented that at this point, there are one of two things that staff is looking for. Mr. Ranch said if the commission feels there are any other areas that need to be addressed, as it relates to this topic we can definitely come back to talk about at the next meeting. If not, and the commission feels they are ready to make a recommendation to City Council in regards to the ideas that staff has presented then that would be the other option. Mr. Ranch commented as Mr. Gleditsch stated and as Ms. Kramer stated, staff can definitely evaluate opportunities within our development processes.

Mr. Arunachalam asked if the City is tracking information regarding native plants and if not, is it something that the City can do in the future.

Mr. Ranc said that is a great question. Although it probably is not realistic in terms of tracking individual plants, staff can continue to track City parks including our prairies and natural areas and how much acreage we have native plants on.

Ms. Kanonchoff also suggested having the DCRC add more classes as it relates to native and invasive plants. She said she has taken a few classes already and it is a great place to have classes. It would great to expand the classes, especially if we have the people with the knowledge that are interested in sharing this information with residents.

Mr. Ranc said that is a great idea.

Mr. Ranc said he does not think the commission would need to make a motion this evening, as it would be quite a motion to encapsulate everything that has been discussed this evening, but he wanted to summarize some of the points that need to be brought forward in his report:

- Encourage outreach and education with reference to appropriate native plant use
  - Put that at the forefront of everything else we are doing in regards to sustainability
  - The City wants people to do this and that is how the City will get the best results
- Incorporate native plants, not only in City parks, but also in City planters and other landscaped areas around City buildings
- Have a demonstration area to show people how nice native plantings can look
  - Demonstrate how to plant and maintain native plants
  - Provide resources of where to get native plants

- Review City Code and review the plant list to include native plants and review invasive plants that are on the list

Mr. Ranc asked the commission if he has missed anything.

Mr. Dritz asked if there is a grant program, where the City could share the cost with HOA is to incorporate native plants in the entrance features or landscaped features in neighborhoods.

Ms. Holt said that can certainly be a part of the City's neighborhood beautification grants that the City offers twice a year.

Mr. Ranc said the City always announces those and that would be a perfect opportunity. The City also keeps an eye on what is going on around the county or state also.

Mr. Arunachalam also asked if the City could provide some type of discount on the plants for the vendors who can provide native plants or some type of incentive for the landscapers that encourage or provide native landscaping.

Mr. Ranc said he the City would not really be involved in any sort of financial incentive. The City does not really have any control over the vendors or retail business. He would need to look into the suggestion of encouraging the vendors to supply more native plant material, but Mr. Ranc was not sure how that would happen.

Ms. Von Sadowszky asked if there is any way the City could come up with some type of incentive for residents. Maybe they could go to their HOA's and they can provide some type of incentive.

Mr. Ranc said that was something staff can look into.

Mr. Ranc wanted to confirm that the items he listed and discussed are what the commission would like staff to do in terms of operations and recommend that staff report to Council with items. As well, staff will look further into some of the incentive options for and staff can report to the commission regarding any types of incentives at a future meeting. In terms of a motion, it might be easy for the commission to recommend to Council that the City incorporate the native plant practices and enhancements as discussed.

Mr. Dritz asked if there is anything happening with developers being required to incorporate native plants or if it is strictly voluntary at this time.

Ms. Holt said it is strictly voluntary at this time. However, the City does have some experts on staff that do evaluate all of the proposed landscape materials and their placement for all commercial office, industrial and multi-family projects. Staff does take look at that and there is interest in native plants.

Ms. McClain said the commission should make a motion for staff to take what the commission has discussed tonight, put it together, and move forward to the next phase.

Ms. Von Sadovszky motioned for staff to take what the commission has discussed tonight, put it together, and move forward to the next phase. Mr. Arunachalam seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. McClain thanked staff and the guests tonight for the discussion.

#### **V. Styrofoam Recycling – Emily Goliver**

Ms. Goliver said at the May meeting, the commission discussed Styrofoam recycling. The commission asked staff to report on some follow-up items. After speaking with the City of Hilliard, Ms. Goliver was able to provide some answers to those questions:

- 1 What is the life expectancy of the densifier? The life is from 8-10 years, fortunately since the densifier Hilliard has is only a year old Hilliard has not had any issues.
- 2 What are the maintenance costs Hilliard has encountered thus far? No maintenance cost so far.
- 3 Has there been an effect on Hilliard's diversion rate? There has been no impact at this time, but Hilliard does not foresee there to be any impactful change because Styrofoam is very light and the diversion rate is calculated by weight, so although there will not be a significant change to the diversion rate, it will have an impact on volume. They collected 400 pounds of Styrofoam at their most recent Earth Day collection event.
- 4 What will the measures of success be for the pilot program? Hilliard's first event included 250 cars and 1,500 pounds of Styrofoam collected, so the City would like to exceed that.
- 5 Can we have collection boxes rather than collection events? Hilliard in the last few weeks has established a drop off bin. It has been so popular, that Hilliard is considering adding a second bin. The bins were established due to the amount of Styrofoam that Hilliard collected at their last event. Hilliard feels that their residents are storing it until events, so they decided to add another amenity for their residents.
- 6 Does the SWACO grant cover staffing costs? Unfortunately, the grant would only cover material cost. Additionally, staff has been working with SWACO on a grant application for 2022, for another program, which does not involved Styrofoam. SWACO tries to provide grants in three-year increments, so since this would be our third year receiving a grant, if it is approved, the City would have an off year where the City may not be awarded a grant.
- 7 What will the marketing plan be? The marketing plan will include using the website, e-mails, social media, HOA outreach, local news media and informational videos.

Ms. Goliver said the bins that Hilliard purchased were from the hardware store (photos below). They are 48" X 45" x 34" and were \$400 each. So total cost for two was \$800. Hilliard also has the Styrofoam bins located where the composting bins are to make it convenient for their residents along with signage directing patrons to the bins.



Ms. Goliver provided a snapshot of the cost analysis based the discussion from the last meeting. The staffing cost is based on the hourly overtime rate of \$45 per employee with three employees.

Option #	Equipment Cost	Staffing Cost	Total Cost
<b>Option 1</b>	\$800	\$1,080	\$1,880
<b>Option 2 (with SWACO grant)</b>	\$16,300*	\$819.36	\$17,109.36
<b>Option 2 (without SWACO grant)</b>	\$46,300*	\$819.36	\$47,119.36

\* Cost estimates based on Hilliard’s experience

Ms. Goliver continued to explain that staff’s recommendation would be option #1 as outlined, which would be to partner with Hilliard. Staff would like to have bins located at the Service Center since the City already has e-waste and compost drop-offs at the Service Center. This would make the experience easy for patrons to access. Additionally the City can collect Styrofoam recycling at the household hazardous events and add another event after black Friday shopping or after the holidays, so residents do not have to store the Styrofoam and so the drop-off bins are not overwhelmed. Ms. Goliver opened it up to discussion and feedback.

Ms. Qiu asked if the \$1,880 is per event, she asked how the City track the cost for staff with having the bins at the Service Center building. Ms. Qiu also asked if the City would need to hire additional staff to manage the Styrofoam recycling.

Ms. Goliver replied that if the Styrofoam recycling were added in with an event already planned, there would be no additional cost because there would already be staff on site. If the City would decide to host an event around black Friday or after the holidays, then that would be the cost of \$1,880. Ms. Goliver asked if Mr. Anderson could speak more in regards to additional staff.

Mr. Anderson said the cost would be very minimal so it would not require additional staff if these are placed at the Service Center and we would already have staff available for the events for recycling, so those would not require any additional staff.

Ms. Qiu asked if the equipment cost would also be per event along with staffing or is that a one-time cost.

Ms. Goliver clarified that the \$800 is a one-time cost for the purchase of the bins and the \$1,080 would be the staffing cost per event.

Mr. Ranc also added that the staffing cost would already be rolled into our current budget, so we would not need to do anything different with our budgets.

Ms. Qiu also asked how often the City would be delivering Styrofoam to Hilliard.

Ms. Goliver said the Styrofoam would be stored in a box truck the City has, so when the truck starts to become full, staff would coordinate with Hilliard to drop off as need. Staff would also need to drop off Styrofoam after each recycling event.

Mr. Dritz asked if the City of Dublin would need to sign a contract with Hilliard.

Ms. Goliver said staff would confirm with our legal staff, but multiple municipalities are partnering with Hilliard currently and there are no contracts in place.

Ms. McClain asked if the City would need to contribute any funds towards the maintenance of the equipment.

Ms. Goliver said the understanding that she has from Hilliard is that they just want other municipalities to utilize the service so Hilliard can use the machine to make it worth the cost. Hilliard, along with SWACO, would like it to be regional benefit.

Mr. Arunachalam asked if the bins would be safe during bad weather.

Ms. Goliver replied that if staff knew there were weather emergencies, the bins could be removed during storms. Staff would ensure that the bins were safe and secure when placed.

Ms. Kanonchoff asked how long it would take to get these bins in place.

Ms. Goliver said the turnaround would be fairly quick. Staff would just need to purchase the bins and we would certainly want to make sure we have the education and marketing out ahead of time. We could definitely have it place by the end of the year, but probably by the end of the quarter, it would be in place.

Mr. Dritz asked if staff could report to the commission in a year to see if this something that would make sense to continue after a year.

Ms. Goliver said staff could absolutely report back in a year.

Ms. Von Sadowszky recommended also getting the community involved in volunteering, utilizing church groups, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and others to get help with the events.

Ms. Qiu also suggested letting vendors in the area know the City will be doing this so they can share this information with their consumers.

Mr. Larson wanted to congratulate the City of Dublin, Rumpke and SWACO for doing a great job in managing all of the recycling that keeps coming. He commented that this would be a great opportunity to do some reporting and provide statistics back to product and packaging designers in regards to the amount of unnecessary packaging used for some products.

Mr. Arunachalam made a motion for the City of Dublin to move forward with option #1 for Styrofoam recycling. Ms. Kanonchoff seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion was unanimously approved.

## **VI. Sustainability Framework Update – Emily Goliver**

Ms. Goliver said in 2018, the City of Dublin started working on a Sustainability Framework. Ms. Goliver wanted to share the information from the internal tracking of successes and outcomes of the Sustainability Framework. Ms. Goliver said the goal tracking is broken down by the umbrella category, then each of the categories within the framework. The framework was adopted in 2018 and the timeline was through 2020, but due to the pandemic staff extended it through 2021. Staff wanted to provide an update to this commission in regards to the outcomes. At some point this year, staff will be providing an update on the Sustainability Framework 2.0.

Mr. Dritz asked if this presentation can be sent electronically to the commission members, so it could be reviewed and then present this at the next meeting, since there is so much information.

Mr. Ranc said staff could certainly do that at the next meeting if that is the preference of the entire commission. Staff really wanted to provide a brief review at this month's meeting since the commission would break until September. Staff plans to bring the updated framework at the September meeting. If the commission would prefer we can proceed with this at the September meeting or if the rest of the commission would prefer to continue with this now.

Ms. Goliver apologized for not sending it out prior, but she will send it to the commission and share it at a very high level tonight and then if anyone has any additional questions, once everyone has time to review it, she is always available to answer any questions.

Ms. McClain asked the rest of the commission members if they were fine with continuing with the presentation, as to not hold up staff. The presentation would be sent electronically and any questions can be addressed at the September meeting.

The rest of the commission was fine with having Ms. Goliver continue with her presentation.

Ms. Goliver provided the status of each of these different categories and sub-categories of the Sustainability Framework, along with any final comments regarding each of the tasks. The complete details will be sent to the commission members.

	Goal Accomplished	2019	2020/2021	Final	Additional Comments
<b>SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBORHOODS AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT</b>					
Adopt Complete Streets Policy	Complete	Resolution Adopted		Folding the Complete Streets and Smarts Streets programs into the City's larger Vision Zero efforts	
Increase Percentage of SUP by 1% by 2020	Complete			More on the way	128 miles to 129.3 miles
Update Zoning Code to Encourage Sustainable Development Practices	In Progress			Solar code is going through PZC	Could be addressed in Dublin 2035 Framework
Provide Opportunities to Implement Energy Conservation Practices	In Progress			Researching potential energy options	
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES</b>					
Increase Pollinator-Friendly Areas - Add minimum of 5 native plant areas annually to open space and right-of-ways.	Complete	5 Added	5 Added	5 Added	
Develop Wildlife Management - Prepare management plans for deer, coyote, and skunk by 2020.	In Progress	Deer + Coyote Completed	Skunk to be completed in 2021		
Develop Wildlife Management - Train 10 Park Ambassadors to conduct bio surveys and provide public education for park visitors.	In Progress	6 Trained Park Ambassadors	Adding a few more in 2021		
Conduct Major Water Monitoring Evaluations - Achieve at least 4 evaluations annually.	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	

Increase Public Awareness and Education for Peaceful Co-Existence with Wildlife - Conduct at least 5 community/HOA wildlife information sessions annually.



3 completed in 2019

3 completed in 2020 (virtual)

Spoke with 5 different HOA representatives in 2021 via phone meetings

While we only completed 3 in both 2020 and 2021, we do not want to adjust the goal just yet. This is something we offer to the community and actively promote. We believe there may be enough community interest to keep the goal at 5, as we were trending that direction in 2020 until the pandemic hit. We will continue to monitor and may adjust the goal moving forward if necessary.

Increase Public Awareness and Education for Peaceful Co-Existence with Wildlife - Achieve at least 4,000 uses of nature education website pages and social media posts annually. Collaborate with Dublin City Schools and Emerald Campus to Add an Environmental Science Track



On hold with schools until 2022. Will be included in future sustainability framework.

Increase Resident Participation in Community Gardens and Certified Backyard Wildlife Habitats  
 - Add 30 or more certified backyard habitats to the City annually.

Partial Complete

12 CWH added in 2019. Community Garden sold out

18 CWH added in 2020. Community Garden sold out

12 CWH added in 2021. Community Garden sold out

We are adding CWH at a rate of about 10 per year. Will discuss whether we feel this is a good number or if we want to continue to push for the goal of 30 per year. Could also be good to discuss if it would be appropriate to replicate a program at the community level, as the Certified Backyard Wildlife Habitat certification does cost money. We have many more residents who are meeting the standards set out for the CWH but are simply not completing the certification.

**CITY OPERATIONS**

Transition Boards, Commissions, and City Council to Becoming Paperless

Complete

Fully transitioned

Planning + Building Standards have fully transitioned to paperless as well.

Mitigate Idling by City Vehicles

Complete

Policy refreshed and 'no idling signs placed at some city facilities.

Educate Staff on City Procurement and Purchasing Policy Regarding Preference for Products Derived from Recycled Materials



Review completed

Decision made to develop comprehensive sustainability AO

Updating AO 1.13 - Waste Minimization and Office Recycling Program to reflect the necessary information

These Administrative Orders were updated, but direction and support was given toward creating a more comprehensive AO addressing sustainability throughout the organization. This may ultimately morph into a larger goal for future sustainability framework.

**RECYCLING AND DIVERSION**

Increase the Community's Diversion Rate - Increase diversion rate from 49% to 55% by 2020.



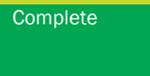
50%

46%

48%

Diversion rate has been heavily impacted by increases in waste generation due to residents home more

Increase the Dublin Irish Festival Diversion Rate - Increase diversion rate from 23% to 30% by 2020.



Increased diversion rate to 41%.

No Irish Festival.

Not tracked at Dublin Irish Days

Increase Internal (Employee) Recycling - Employee survey demonstrating increased awareness and recycling efforts.



Updating AO 1.13 - Waste Minimization and Office Recycling Program to reflect the necessary information

**ENERGY AND AIR QUALITY**

Install a Solar Energy Array at a City Facility - Provide at least 15% of the facility's electricity demand from the solar installation.

On Hold

Held discussions with several companies, including IGS but are still in search of a project that makes sense economically

Have met with several solar companies including, IGS Solar and AMERESCO. They have not been able to make the numbers work largely due to Ohio's low electricity rates

Install New Chillers at the Dublin Community Recreation Center That Take Full Advantage of the City's Geothermal System - Reduce the amount of electricity purchased from the utility community to less than 1.5 million KWHs per year.

Complete

New chillers installed and operational. Hard to determine impact on electricity consumption at this time due to building being partially closed as a result of COVID-19.

Replace Interior Lighting at the Dublin Community Recreation Center with LED Fixtures - Achieve at least 90 percent of fixtures converted to LED.

Complete

124 lights converted

276 lights converted

Nearly every building has been converted to LED, with the exception of a few lights at the Development Building

Reduce City Vehicle Emissions and Dependence on Petroleum Fuel - Achieve 20% reduction in vehicle emissions by 2020.

In Progress

- Replaced 7 dirty diesel plows to clean burning CNG
- Added 10 Nissan Leafs to fleet
- 7 hybrid police interceptors

- 4 CNG plow trucks
- Replaced 3 dirty diesel skid steers with clean burning tier 4 diesel engines
- Purchased 2 tier 4 clean burning diesel leaf machines

- Purchased 13 hybrid police interceptors to date

Hybrid police interceptors are currently using half the amount of gasoline per shift than the older units use per shift. About 8 gallons per shift to 6 and 24 gallons a day to 12 gallons.

Assist Residents and Corporate Residents in Reducing Emissions by Providing Alternative Fueling Choices to the Public - Increase the number of privately owned vehicles (individual and corporate) using the City's CNG station or electric vehicle charging stations by 20%.

Complete

6 EV Chargers at Dublin Parking Garage

4 EV Chargers will be available at City Hall by June 2021

- Currently have 19 ChargePoint locations with plans to build up to 25 by 2024

**MOBILITY**

Support Economic Development - Create a mobility plan for workforce development and business community.  
Expand Multimodal Options Citywide - Pilot at least two non-automotive transportation projects.

Complete

Launched by 2019

Complete

Lime Bike Share Pilot

Bike Loops created

DCRC Mobility Hub will be complete in 2022.  
Launched a CoGo bike share program and Bird scooters pilot.  
Mobility Hub will be complete in 2022.  
Additional wayfinding being added.

Implement Strategies to Encourage Sustainable Transportation Options and Behavior - Implement at least three of five transportation options from objectives within the Mobility Study.

Complete

Micro-transit

Micro-transit, wayfinding, vision zero

Promote Equitable Access to Mobility - Create a circulator that provides greater mobility options for older adults and individuals with disabilities.

Complete

Continuous program started in 2018

Preserve Our Environs by Focusing Future Growth - Improve walkability in all Dublin neighborhoods.

In Progress

In progress - adding additional shared-use paths, loops, and sidewalks for increased walkability

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Increase GreenSpot Membership - Increase membership by 50% by 2020.

In Progress

49% Increased

Increased from 472 to 705 (708 would be 50%)

Increase Exposure of Dublin Sustainability

Complete

- Increased involvement with MORPC Sustainable2050 program
- Continued engagement with USDN
- Continue to promote sustainability initiatives at City Events (e.g. Irish Festival, Fourth of July)

- Dublin Grows Greener video series
- Earth Month events
- Sustainability page on the new website launching later this year

Create an External Advisory Group

Complete

Met 4 times in 2019

Set to meet twice in 2021 to finish out term

Term ended in 2021.  
Considering folding this into CSAC

Create a Sustainability Webpage

Complete

Framework Built

Working with CPI to create and launch page

Website is launching this summer

**ECONOMICS**

Engage with Green Companies and Increase Awareness

On Hold

Turnover in the economic development department has put this on hold

Increase Green Encouragement Programs  
Create a Green Business Roundtable

Complete  
On Hold

Turnover in the economic development department has put this on hold

Mr. Dritz asked if the City looked the cost benefit of purchasing more hybrid police cars. Although the City saves money on fuel, the cars are probably more expensive. He was curious if staff looks to make sure there is a break-even point.

Mr. Ranc said the City’s fleet management staff constantly looks at all of the factors and cost before purchasing vehicles of any sort. Also with electric vehicles, ongoing maintenance is much less than a standard vehicle. Mr. Ranc also added that with the larger heavy-duty vehicles there have not been any issues or complaints with power or performance with those vehicles. Overall, it has been a good transition. The biggest factor right now that the City is facing is getting the vehicles in. There is a very long wait, as there is with most manufactured items at this time. Mr. Ranc said that staff could provide a cost benefit analysis update if that is something the commission is interested in.

Ms. Von Sadowszky commented that cost benefit analysis is one of the factors that seem to be missing from report. There are other factors, but it would be nice to see a comprehensive cost of everything the City has done and how much the City is saving fiscally.

Mr. Ranc said staff absolutely can additional information in regards to the cost benefit analysis.

Mr. Dritz asked if the City signs long term contracts for services such as electric and natural gas.

Mr. Ranc said the City does typically sign a three-year contract for these services. The City is actually coming up on a new power contract. Staff just sent out request for pricing for various energy providers. The providers were also asked to also include 100% renewal energy. They might come in a little below what the standard energy is just because of the fuel prices right now.

Ms. Qiu said since the City has replaced 90% of the City building lights with LED lights is there an obvious saving in electricity.

Mr. Ranc said the City has saved and he could also bring back more information in that regards.

Ms. Qiu said that she notices when driving by some of the City building in the evening, the lights sometimes are blazing bright. Is there any plan to start dimming or turning off lights in the City buildings at night?

Mr. Ranc said that was a fair critique. Certainly, some lights will always stay on due to security. Some of the lights that are on in the evening could be due to our second shift staff that are cleaning the buildings, but certainly, staff should be more cognitive of our internal operations.

Ms. Goliver also added that some of the offices do have automatic shut off switches and staff has discussed adding more of those throughout the City.

Ms. Qiu also asked if City could regulate the heat and air conditioning in City buildings. It seems like sometimes the temperatures are too warm or too cold. Sometimes she can also hear the air conditioning unit outside of the buildings.

Mr. Ranc said staff could absolutely look into that. Sometimes when you are in large room such as the Council Chambers, it is a constant battle of trying to keep the room at a correct temperature.

Mr. Ranc commented that he would like to get some feedback from the commission on one of the topics within the community engagement section. Mr. Ranc said that he and Ms. Goliver have deliberated quite a bit in regards to the external advisory group, which was created as a part of the original framework. When it first started, there was a lot of excitement but towards the end it started to lose some of its steam and it became difficult to get people to attend meetings from time to time. We talked about using this commission as our sustainability group. There are going to be issues that people are passionate about and want to be involved in and we will provide every opportunity to come to one of these meetings and make their voice heard. Tonight is a perfect example of that. Mr. Ranc said one of the topics specifically included in the rules and regulation of this commission talks about environmental initiatives, which is why we have been leading that way. Mr. Ranc said the last advisory group ended with the end of the last framework, which is why we wanted to get feedback from this commission.

Mr. Von Sadovszky said she was fine with have the commission serve as the advisory group. She also suggested getting youth from the high schools to participate. If the high schools are going to offer classes regarding this topic, then it would be great to have a youth advisory group. They could come back and report their thoughts to this group as well.

Ms. Goliver said that was a great idea. The environmental groups at the high schools would be a great place to start. The City is really engaged with them at all three of the high schools, so having a more frequent touch point with them would be a great idea.

Mr. Dritz was in favor of utilizing this commission. Staff has the experience of using an external advisory group and this would give staff the experience in working with the commission on this.

Then if there is a 3.0 version of the framework, staff can see which group worked best for the next round.

Mr. Ranc commented and wanted to make it very clear that this will not decreased the amount of community involvement. We still want community involvement and know there will be opportunities in the framework to reach out to specific groups and get them involved, but we would like to try to avoid is having a proliferation of committees and not having enough for them to do. Mr. Ranc said it believes it will be more efficient and there would be a better outcome by working with the Community Service Advisory Commission, as the advisory group.

The commission agreed with Mr. Ranc.

Mr. Ranc said staff will proceed in that direction. Mr. Ranc wanted to discuss the next steps. It has taken longer than he has wanted to get to the next framework, but with Nick Plouck leaving the City and JM Rayburn moving to a different division and having new responsibilities, he needed to wait until Ms. Goliver's position was filled, as Mr. Plouck and Mr. Rayburn were the owners of the framework. Mr. Ranc said that Ms. Goliver has reinstated and reconstituted the Eco Dublin Team internally, which has representation from all City departments. They have gone through the existing framework as we have done with this commission this evening. The plan is to bring the Sustainability Framework 2.0 to CSAC in September and then bring to Council for approval yet this year.

Mr. Ranc also wanted to announce to the commission that MORCP (Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission), who is very involved in sustainability efforts, has created a resident based environmental sustainability forum. Communities around the Columbus metropolitan area send their resident based groups, in this instance would be CSAC, to the quarterly meeting. They discuss specific issues as it relates to sustainability. Mr. Ranc attended the meeting in February and he said it is very much resident based, so he would like to send the next meeting invite to commission to attend. The meeting will be on Wednesday, June 22 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at the MORPC Building in Columbus. Mr. Ranc said he would check the quorum guidelines for those meetings, but he would encouraged one or all members to attend if they would like.

Ms. Goliver also wanted the commission to be aware that the future tracking for Sustainability Framework 2.0 will not be in the form of a spreadsheet. Staff will be using different program upon approval and staff will update it as we go. This will be completely accessible to the public, so anyone can view it at any time and this commission would not need to wait for a meeting to get updates.

## **VII. Other Items of Interest**

Ms. Qiu said there has been a lot of discussion in the news in regards to the rising energy cost and inflation. Ms. Qiu noticed there were City vehicles in her neighborhood handling some tree maintenance and their vehicles were idling. Ms. Qiu said she read in the Sustainability Framework that idling was one of the items. It seems as though there may still be some work to do in that area.

Mr. Ranc said there is still some work to do in those areas. There are times when some of the vehicle will need to idle for operational purposes, but he was not sure if that is the case in that situation. The City definitely needs to reiterate that to our front line workers, that unless there is an operational purpose, not to let vehicles idle. It is not only environmentally bad but with cost increases; it can affect our budgets also.

Ms. Qiu ask if the rapidly increasing energy cost have an impact on the City's budget for 2022 or if the City is fine.

Mr. Ranc said the City budgets conservatively. The City has healthy reserves and healthy revenues if there would be a reason to re-appropriate funds for energy cost we should be able to do that. We are almost halfway through the year, so staff is very cautious of our budgets and keeping an eye on budgets with the rising costs. The City does receive fuel at a lower cost than the retail cost. Mr. Ranc said he reviews the fuel budget with his fleet staff weekly to see where we are.

Ms. Goliver also added that the City does have a revenue source as well. The City sells fuel through our CNG station and regular gas as well. So as prices have gone up, we see that in our expenditures, but we are also seeing that in our revenue.

Ms. Qiu asked what CNG is?

Mr. Ranc said CNG is clean natural gas, which is a compressed clean energy. It is an alternative energy source for vehicles and it is used for Dublin City Schools and City of Dublin vehicles. It requires specialized training because all of that gas compressed can be very dangerous. That was some of the City's earlier efforts at reducing emissions into the environment.

Mr. Dritz asked if the City charges when someone uses the charging stations that are throughout the City.

Mr. Ranc was not sure. He said he would get an answer and follow-up by email with the commission.

#### **VIII. Next meeting: September 13, 2022**

The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

#### **IX. Adjournment**

Ms. McClain adjourned the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Marja Keplar, Administrative Support III

Attachments: 06/14/22 Guest Sign In  
5/10/22 Meeting Follow-up Items Memo  
Native Plant Use in Dublin Memo  
2018-2020 Sustainability Framework Update