



**Community Services Advisory Commission
October 12, 2021
Minutes**

Commission Members: **Present:** Vivekanandan Arunachalam, Elizabeth McClain,
Tom Strup, Alice (Dee) Kanonchoff, Steve Dritz,
Hong Qiu, Jim Snider via Zoom

Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Nick Plouck, Management Analyst

Guests: None

I. Call to Order

Mr. Arunachalam established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

II. Swearing in of New Member

Vice Mayor Cathy De Rosa swore in Hong Qiu. Hong recited and signed the oath. She then gave a brief introduction of herself to the Commission. She said she is honored to be a part of the team and is excited to work to make the City a better place.

III. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

No outside comments were submitted for this meeting.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the September 14, 2021 meeting were distributed via email for review. There being no changes, Mr. Arunachalam asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Strup motioned to approve. Ms. Kanonchoff seconded the motion. All in favor, the September meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

V. Sustainability Framework Update

Mr. Plouck began his presentation on the Dublin Sustainability framework. He pointed out the early stages of development began in the fall of 2017 and the Commission approved the final sustainability framework in the fall of 2018. It was adopted by Council in September of 2018. At that point, we also sought direction from Council to create a sustainability advisory team. The goal was to bring a cross section of community members, various commission members, Dublin residents, and Dublin business members into the loop. In early 2019 they formed a sustainability team. The plan was for the team to meet quarterly and for most of the year, we worked to

onboard members and gather feedback. We brought in trained facilitators and had them do a Kaizen exercise to gather thoughts and ideas. We were working to establish the framework when the pandemic hit. Initially the goal was to postpone meeting for a couple months but ultimately we missed an entire year.

In October of 2018 the City was awarded the Sustainable 2050 Platinum award and was presented with the Encouraging Environment Excellence Award in May of 2019. We were recognized again this year so we are definitely taking the right steps and making progress. We certainly want to continue the momentum.

Fast forward to 2021. The group met once in August and is scheduled to meet again in December. We are hopeful to bring forward a skeleton of what the plan is beginning to look like.

Referring to the Sustainability Framework Goal Tracking spreadsheet, Mr. Plouck began to address the categories of focus that make up the framework:

- Sustainable neighborhoods
- Natural resources
- Recycling and diversion
- Energy and air quality
- Mobility
- Community engagement

Mr. Snider asked how 'sustainability' is defined. Mr. Plouck replied that it is more or less environmental stewardship or resilience.

Mr. Dritz suggested distributing the Framework Update and include a glossary of terms and their meaning. Mr. Plouck agreed.

Mr. Plouck covered the Natural Resources portion of the presentation, highlighting the areas that were complete, partially complete, in progress or on hold. He noted that due to the pandemic some areas were impacted more than others.

Mr. Snider asked about wildlife management as it pertains to coyotes. Mr. Plouck said the plan is very specific to the work of Barbara Ray, the City's Nature Education Coordinator and the plans she has created relative to the species that are prevalent in the community. Everything is on the City's website.

Regarding Mr. Snider's question about the park ambassador program, Mr. Plouck said it is handled by the City's Outreach and Engagement Division and is a targeted volunteer program. Mr. Plouck offered to follow up with Mr. Snider on information regarding the program and how to get involved.

NATURAL RESOURCES	
Increase Pollinator-Friendly Areas - Add minimum of 5 native plant areas annually to open space and right-of-ways.	Complete
Develop Wildlife Management - Prepare management plans for deer, coyote, and skunk by 2020.	In Progress
Develop Wildlife Management - Train 10 Park Ambassadors to conduct bio surveys and provide public education for park visitors.	In Progress
Conduct Major Water Monitoring Evaluations - Achieve at least 4 evaluations annually.	Complete
Increase Public Awareness and Education for Peaceful Co-Existence with Wildlife - Conduct at least 5 community/HOA wildlife information sessions annually.	Partial Complete
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.	Complete
Collaborate with Dublin City Schools and Emerald Campus to Add an Environmental Science Track	On Hold
Increase Resident Participation in Community Gardens and Certified Backyard Wildlife Habitats - Add 30 or more certified backyard habitats to the City annually.	Partial Complete

Next Mr. Plouck touched on the Complete Streets Policy or Resolution. When a roadway is built, we are committed to putting a shared use path alongside it. In addition, another benefit to having a Complete Streets Policy is access to possible grant funding. The City now has a Transportation and Mobility Division specifically focusing on transportation and mobility. You will hear from them in the next month when they introduce the speed management topic.

SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBORHOODS AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT	
Adopt Complete Streets Policy	Resolution Adopted
Increase Percentage of SUP by 1% by 2020	Completed
Update Zoning Code to Encourage Sustainable Development Practices	In Progress
Provide Opportunities to Implement Energy Conservation Practices	Not Started

Regarding City Operations, much is being done to transition to paperless practices. The City continues to mitigate idling of City vehicles. Staff is encouraged to order green products derived from recycled goods. As far as internal recycling in City buildings, we continue to see an improvement.

CITY OPERATIONS	
Transition Boards, Commissions, and City Council to Becoming Paperless	Fully Transitioned
Mitigate Idling by City Vehicles	Yes
Educate Staff on City Procurement and Purchasing Policy Regarding Preference for Products Derived from Recycled Materials	In Progress

Touching on the recycling and diversion program, Mr. Plouck said the City is trending in the right direction as far the diversion rate. We are hoping to reach a community diversion rate of 55% in the near future. Currently we stand at 52%. We are striving to in increase the Dublin Irish Festival diversion rate to 41%. Mr. Dritz inquired about Rumpke reporting the recycling numbers. Mr. Plouck said a great deal drives that equation...yard waste diversion, leaf collection etc.

RECYCLING AND DIVERSION	
Increase the Community's Diversion Rate - Increase diversion rate from 49% to 55% by 2020.	52%
Increase the Dublin Irish Festival Diversion Rate - Increase diversion rate from 23% to 30% by 2020.	41%
Increase Internal (Employee) Recycling - Employee survey demonstrating increased awareness and recycling efforts.	In Progress

Regarding Community Engagement, Dublin residents regularly utilize the compost program and the E-waste drop off at the Dublin Service Center. While the service center location may not be the most convenient location for some, in Dublin we are limited to boundaries, permits or the lack of local facilities that are within an acceptable range.

We strive to increase the Green Spot goal to 50%. Currently we are at 49% and feel confident we will meet our goal. The program is housed in Columbus but it's open to anyone in Central Ohio. We are also working to create an external advisory group as well as a sustainability webpage.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	
Increase GreenSpot Membership - Increase membership by 50% by 2020.	49% Increase
Increase Exposure of Dublin Sustainability	Yes
Create an External Advisory Group	Yes
Create a Sustainability Webpage	In Progress

Ms. Qiu asked about water conservation. Mr. Plouck gave a comprehensive response regarding water conservation going forward. He added that during the City’s recent reorganization, a deputy engineer now oversees and focuses on waterways. In follow up to the water conservation topic posed by Ms. Qiu, Mr. Snider asked about encouraging water conservation. He said he noticed rain barrels at most homes in Austin, Texas. Instead of running into the street, the water is collected and used to water plants and the lawn. Mr. Snider thought it might be worth considering.

Mr. Plouck said there is a program in the City where residents who are interested are given a voucher to get a rain barrel from the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District. Items such as this are what we would like to see highlighted on the website. In addition, water barrels pose an issue with screening guidelines. These are topics to breach with planning and zoning or potentially with City Council. We need to decide where sustainability falls as a priority.

Other items of review consist of possibly providing a portion of the facility’s electricity demand from solar, the installation of new chillers and LED lighting at the DCRC, reduce city vehicle emissions and assist residents by providing alternative fueling choices. During the past two years we have installed ten electric vehicle charging stations at City facilities. We are also looking into placing a couple of fast charging stations in the downtown Dublin area. The City’s energy contract expires this year and staff is preparing to prioritize renewable energy options for the upcoming contract.

Much discussion took place on solar energy. Due to land constraints and zoning restrictions within the City, solar arrays could be an issue. Ms. Hong broached the possibility of placing arrays on the tops of parking garages or roofs of other businesses. On the flipside, how efficient would solar energy be in Ohio as it is cloudy a great portion of the time?

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.	0%
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
Replace Interior Lighting at the Dublin Community Recreation Center with LED Fixtures - Achieve at least 90 percent of fixtures converted to LED.	Partial Complete
Reduce City Vehicle Emissions and Dependence on Petroleum Fuel - Achieve 20% reduction in vehicle emissions by 2020.	In Progress
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%.	Partial Complete

Regarding mobility, we are looking at options that make the most sense for the community. We are examining citywide multimodal options. We have been working with The Ohio State University, the City of Columbus, the City of Upper Arlington and the City of Hilliard to review and provide recommendations for CoGo expansion. We would apply for funding through MORPC to enact something of that nature. The cost for that type of infrastructure is substantial.

Another area of focus is providing greater mobility options for aging and disabled individuals as well as the improvement of walkability in all Dublin neighborhoods.

MOBILITY	
Support Economic Development - Create a mobility plan for workforce development and business community.	Complete
Expand Multimodal Options Citywide - Pilot at least two non-automotive transportation projects.	Partial Complete
Implement Strategies to Encourage Sustainable Transportation Options and Behavior - Implement at least three of five transportation options from objectives within the Mobility Study.	In Progress
Promote Equitable Access to Mobility - Create a circulator that provides greater mobility options for older adults and individuals with disabilities.	Complete
Preserve Our Environs by Focusing Future Growth - Improve walkability in all Dublin neighborhoods.	In Progress

The City has implemented green encouragement programs. One such green program is the drop-off composting program which was initially funded through a SWACO Community Waste Reduction Grant. The program provides a 5-gallon bucket and compostable liners/bags. When full, the liner/bag is dropped at the Dublin Service Center at the compost drop site. There are several 95-gallon bins screened in the corner of the parking lot. Currently there are 746 registered participants and possibly more who aren't registered. To date, nearly 97,000 pounds of food waste has been diverted. In the first year our diversion goal was 75,000 pounds so we exceeded our target. This year we are setting up a pumpkin drop off site in the parking lot of the Dublin Service Center.

Another recycling drop-off program provides recycling opportunities for small businesses and multi-family tenants. This program is one of SWACO's most popular. They have approximately fifty locations throughout central Ohio. However, they do not have a drop site in the City of Dublin. An ideal location would be in the downtown Dublin vicinity but overcoming challenges with planning and zoning for the screening may present a challenge.

The City also applied for a grant for a glass recycling program. Glass is 100% recyclable as long as it gets to the proper facility. The Short North has effectively implemented this program. Michael Darling assists with the City's diversion efforts. He worked for Rumpke when that program started so he is familiar. We are going to try it if we can get the grant funding. We will start in the downtown Dublin area.

Kyle Kridler, a former employee had the idea of creating a Green Business Roundtable. Before the idea could formulate, Kyle moved on to another city. Basically, the idea was to engage with businesses, helping them understand where opportunities and incentives exist or to offer developers allowances based on building with sustainable materials. This is currently on hold.

ECONOMICS	
Engage with Green Companies and Increase Awareness	In Progress
Increase Green Encouragement Programs	Complete
Create a Green Business Roundtable	On Hold

Mr. Plouck summarized where the Sustainability Framework is headed by pointing out areas of focus:

- Green Space
- Water
- Waste Reduction
- Mobility & Transportation
- Energy & Air Quality
- Built Environment

When thinking about sustainability important questions to ask are:

- How does it relate to quality of life?
- How does it relate to resilience?
- How does it relate to community education and involvement?

Currently there are areas of importance such as the priority of the community. Quality of life is important to the community and to Council. Resilience is significant. He said the Commission will be a great sounding board further down the road when the Sustainability Framework drafts are completed.

VI. Other Items of Interest

Mr. Snider said since Mr. Plouck sought feedback on the “certified backyard wildlife habitat”, he had researched applying for it earlier in the year and felt it was not worth pursuing. A better option would be to create a fun program for young kids and parents where a poster is made available illustrating backyard wildlife and the habitat that can attract them. For instance, hummingbirds and butterflies are attracted to Lantana plants. Through the summer, families can keep track of how many different wildlife they can spot in their backyards. Mr. Plouck agreed with that type of idea. He felt the goal is to encourage the introduction of more wildlife-friendly habitat. A program that is free, fun, and easy for residents to participate in is the optimum way to go.

Mr. Plouck said the Commission will hear from the Division of Transportation and Mobility as they discuss the topic of speed management. They will provide an overview of what they are looking

into and what the Commission will be working on. From there they will hire a consultant and work with them for a period of time, ultimately circling back to the Commission for input. Mr. Plouck said Council is working through their retreat items and prioritizing their Committee's schedules for the upcoming year. He also mentioned having Ms. Nardecchia or one of her team members come talk about the Forever Dublin program or some of the other programs they have been involved in. The progress on these items may dictate whether or not CSAC meets in December. Mr. Plouck will keep the Commission updated.

VII. Next meeting: November 9, 2021

Mr. Arunachalam thanked everyone and announced that the next meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday November 9, 2021.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Arunachalam adjourned the meeting at 8:28p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Pickens".

Sandra Pickens, Administrative Support III

Attachments: Sustainability Framework – Goal Tracking
Sustainability Framework Update PowerPoint