

PRAIRIE VILLAGE ENVIRONMENTAL & RECYCLING COMMITTEE  
MEETING AGENDA – FEBRUARY 26, 2014 – 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

- Call to Order & Introductions
- Approve January Meeting Minutes
- Review Agenda, add New Business Items
- Guest: Tom Coffman (Deffenbaugh) for a discussion on promoting recycling
- Committee Reports
  - Earth Fair
  - Community Garden
  - Community Forum
  - Village Fest
  - Education
- Old Business
  - Recycling
    - Normandy Square
    - General discussion
  - Bag Fees
  - Upcoming Meeting Topics
- New Business
  - Agenda distribution E-mail list
  - Volunteers for Saturday April 5<sup>th</sup> Compost Event
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- Adjourn
  - Next meeting March 26<sup>th</sup>.

## PRAIRIE VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLE COMMITTEE

Minutes, January 22, 2014

Pete Jarchow, for the Steering Committee, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Attending were Pete, Ben Claypool, Thomas O'Brien, Margaret Goldstein, Polly Swafford, Karin McAdams, Penny Mahon, Toby Grotz, Ashley Weaver, Ruth Hopkins, and Kate Gunja, Assistant City Administrator. Visitors included Linda Gourley, Earth Fair Coordinator; Kathy Riordan, former member; and Megan England, Roeland Park City Council, with Roeland Park and Overland Park supporters Halli Vrooman, Verna Crane, Marilyn Lyons (OP Environmental Advisory Council), Thomas Madigan and Sandra Sanchez.

The minutes from December 4 were approved as written.

**Guest presentation:** Megan England from Roeland Park, speaking on their experiences proposing a ban on one-use plastic bags in Roeland Park.

- Roeland Park's Sustainability Committee surveyed citizens in 2008 and found an interest in the environment. Speaking with Tommy Wells, a Washington DC councilman, they learned of DC's successful use of a plastic bag use fee. This action reduced plastic bag use by 80% and raised funds for environmental cleanup. Many other areas have passed similar measures.
- Businesses in Roeland Park were favorable to a bag limitation, especially Walmart, which has been attempting to make a variety of environmentally sound improvements. Money taken in through a bag fee would go partly to businesses and partly to the city.
- The committee presented a thorough document to the Roeland Park City Council, which was supportive.
- However, three years ago the city of Mission faced litigation due to its "driveway tax," which charged a fee to homeowners and businesses to help finance roadwork. This fee was categorized as an excise tax. The committee withdrew its plastic bag fee plan, being advised that this measure could be looked on in the same way.
- Now they are looking at ways to change behavior without legislating it. "Bag monsters" at major retail outlets could teach about the perils of plastic bags, for instance.
- At this point some possibilities are: Roeland Park, Overland Park and Prairie Village could join forces to create change; our committee could consult with our city attorney and the attorney for the state about the legality of a bag fee; we can study Roeland Park's extensive documentation and consider further options.

### Reports and business:

- **Earth Fair – Linda Gourley:**
  - Publicity is well underway, including articles to *Greenability* and *Village Voice*, handouts for vendors, entries in many calendars, and updating the website.
  - An exciting new exhibit will be from MindDrive, a student engineering group.

- We hope to include a cluster of exhibits on sustainable vacations and outings, from the state parks organizations, Sierra Club, Amtrak and others. Those with suggestions for this should contact Karin.
- **Community Forum:** Kathy Riordan
  - Kathy gave a complete report in October, but it was not minuted, as there was not a quorum. Kate Gunja has a copy of the report. The committee did not use all the funds that were budgeted for the forum.
  - Kathy would like to recognize Deb English for all the hard work that she put into the 2012 and 2013 forums.
  - In the future, Kathy would like to continue to serve on the forum committee, mostly to work with the caterer.
  - She proposes adding an additional co-sponsor, True Blue Women.
    - They are interested, and Jennifer Byers, of the environmental subcommittee, will be a contact person. The forum could then be directed by a committee to be made up of two or more representatives from our committee, KNRC and True Blue Women.
    - With this structure, there would be more partners to help draw attendance.
    - There would then be no need to have a chairperson to head the event, or else a chair could be chosen by the planning committee.
    - A motion to join with True Blue Women and KNRC to plan future forums was seconded and passed.

**Community Gardens:**

- Only ten plots opened up after this growing season, and many more people would like to use them. A lottery is planned to decide who gets them, and it will be followed by a general meeting on February 8 at 9:00 a.m.
- The garden committee is interested in finding new ways to expand. It is of interest that Cherokee Christian Church, home of the auxiliary garden, will be moving, but the future tenant, a Montessori school, may be interested in maintaining the garden.
- **A note from Ruth Hopkins:**
  - The city council will be looking at each city committee to assess its viability.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

The next meeting will be held on February 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karin McAdams