



City of Denton
MINUTES
COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

City Hall
215 E. McKinney Street
Denton, Texas
www.cityofdenton.com

Monday, March 7, 2019

11:00am

City Council Work Session Room

After determining that a quorum of the Committee on the Environment of the Denton City Council was present, the Committee on the Environment thereafter convened into an Open Meeting on Monday, March 7, 2019 at 10:59 a.m. in the Council Work Session Room at City Hall, 215 E. McKinney Street, Denton, Texas

Council Members: Chair Council Member Keely Briggs, and Council Member Paul Meltzer

Absent: Council Member John Ryan

Also Attending: Mario Canizares, ACM; Todd Estes, Director of Capital Projects; Katherine Barnett, Sustainability & Customer Initiatives Manager; Sarah Luxton, Sustainability Coordinator; James Douglas, Conservation Program Coordinator; Kim Mankin, Administration Manager

Guest were introduced from Texas Woman's University 'Climate change of human prospective course'

REGULAR MEETING

A. COE19-008 - Consider approval of the Committee on the Environment of the Denton City Council Meeting minutes of February 4, 2019.

Approved as circulated.

B. COE19-009 - Receive an update and hold a discussion on the launch and future plans for the Sustainable Denton Green Business Program.

James Douglas gave the presentation regarding Green Business Program – Pilot.

Background:

The Green Business Program has moved passed the development stages and into a pilot. A GBP website was launched and several businesses will be contacted to participate in the early stages of the program.

Objective:

The Green Business Program is designed to encourage the adoption of Sustainability Plan Goals within the commercial and industrial sectors, including engagement and best practices.

Focus Areas:

- Water
- Energy
- Transportation
- Resources
- Health
- Community

Key Points:

- Provide the Committee on the Environment with details regarding the launch of the Green Business Program.
- Seek input on future activities of the program.

Member Prospects:

- Over 25 prospects have been identified in 9 different categories
- Each will be contacted with application materials and an invitation to join the program

Council Member Briggs asked if we will focus on small businesses. Douglas answered we will, for example tracking your energy usage can used by large or small businesses.

Application Process:

- Sustainability Benchmarking
- Signing the Green Pledge
- Community Engagement
 - Sustainability Score Received
 - Marketing Material Received
 - Sustainability Roadmap Received

Briggs asked if we would provide a window sticker for the businesses that are involved. Douglas answered upon request they would receive one.

Future Plans:

- Offer one class before the end of the year for those that applied to the program
- Create a Facebook page for networking
- Develop events to encourage participation and community engagement

Questions:

Council Member Meltzer asked is there a list of the 'recognitions' that will be received? Also, on the window sticker, it would be good to give in advance and not have to request.

Douglas answered the main benefit will be to be in the program versus not being in the program. There are four different levels in terms of the score.

Meltzer then asked how they would get noticed for being in the program. Douglas answered with the marketing material they can put it on what they choose, and the website as well.

Meltzer suggested recognitions they can achieve and the levels associated so they can see the benefits.

Briggs asked if there are plans to present this to the Chamber of Commerce. Douglas answered it hasn't come up at this time. Briggs thinks that would be a good idea.

Briggs would also like some kind of incentive to receive a certain amount off of the recycling bill if you hit a certain target, for example.

Meltzer added it would be great to encourage business to adopt the program and have targets.

Briggs stated not only for the Chamber but we have our own Economic Development Department, if they have the image for this program it could attract more people to our city.

Canizares we will coordinate with Caroline booth and her team to get them fully oriented to this program and how they can help get the word out to move forward.

Briggs stated there are many avenues to spread this ultimately it is better for our city, the more businesses that participate.

Douglas will track the number of employees and businesses as well.

Meltzer stated Denton Main Street Association would be another great ally.

Briggs asked where the fliers be placed. Douglas answered currently on the website only but will look at placing them in and around the square and partnering with the Chamber. Briggs suggested placing in the libraries as well.

C. COE19-010 - ACM Update:

Each item was reported on separately with short impromptu presentations.

1. **Update Greenhouse Gas Contribution Analyses**

James Douglas gave the update on this item. He started with the explanation of the analyses in different categories of 'what is right', 'what is wrong' and 'what is out of our control'.

Briggs asked about the decreases and increases and asked if there is any help to bring it back down. Douglas answered the contribution analyses can be run for any years. The one in question is vehicle miles traveled. The reason is the transportation information is gathered from NCTCOG and they only put out the transportation data approximately every three to five years.

Meltzer stated he understands what is actionable. If you don't like the numbers what do you do? Douglas answered he believes that we can get more tools to help understand the information and why the numbers are the way they are.

Canizares added if there are areas that this committee would like more information, staff can look into it and bring the information back.

Briggs stated for her as the sustainability plan is completed and as the key focus areas are brought back as work plan, things that can be done. An example would be plant trees along the highway, walk to class by students or other things to bring the numbers down again. Canizares added there is a lot of construction going on, with a lot of traffic and lack of mobility because of that construction. We will continue to work through those things and being partners with DCTA certainly helps.

Canizares asked if these are the key items being looked at, Douglas answered they were the more influential based on the analyses. Barnett added that the city has a long history of greenhouse gas and many data sets that the comparisons can be made and see where the largest increases are over time. That data driven decision making will help focus education and policies in the future.

Meltzer stated adding a matrix of what is big and what is impactful would be useful.

Briggs asked if the Greenhouse Gas inventory is on the webpage. Douglas answered it is.

2. **Update Recycling Education**

Katherine Barnett gave this update in the absence of Vanessa Ellison. Staff is working on a new postcard to incorporate the information about recyclable items.

All colors of glass food and beverage containers are recyclable, they need to be relatively clean.

Meltzer just wanted to mention if you leave water in the spaghetti jar and walk away you can pour it out clean.

Barnett went on to say the lids need to be removed from the glass containers.

Briggs stated the lids are not recyclable in most cases, Barnett agreed because of the coating.

Barnett stated they are working on a community tour of Pratt, also a new item will be 'Pratt and Chat'.

Meltzer asked about 'frequently asked question videos' shared on social media.

Barnett added egg cartons that are Styrofoam are not recyclable, the pressed paper ones and the plastic ones are.

Shredded paper can be placed in the recycle cart loose. Whole paper is better for Pratt.

Cardboard boxes do not have to be broken down.

The contamination rate needs to be brought down.

Frisco is the only place to drop off Styrofoam to be recycled. Barnett is identifying the options now.

Barnett offered help for anyone that wants information to recycle including apartment complexes.

3. Update Sustainability Events

Sarah Luxton talked about the events. March should be the best month so far.

A new event that is coming up is the seed swap.

Fix a leak week is coming up spreading information about water conservation.

Great American Cleanup is also a great way to connect with the public and is coming up soon.

4. Information on changing Drainage Channel in Quakertown Park

Todd Estes gave the presentation and talked about this item.

Estes showed the area talked about on a map; near TWU to McKinney Street and Oakland to Bell. The channel in its current state has been there over 25 years. It is designed to handle a lot of flood water. The flood map for the downtown area was shown. The water flow is 5,000 cubic feet per second for a 100 year storm event.

Estes showed on a map how the water flows and exits.

Briggs asked the life span of a concrete channel. Estes answered there are many variables that would contribute to the life span. It would depend on the original design. In a parks setting today staff would recommend something more like an armoring of the channel lining what would allow plants to grow through the lining itself.

To remove this channel and then replace to get the same capacity for flood water in the area, many things would have to happen. There is currently a study ongoing to look at this. To remove the concrete channel the cost would be about \$100,000.

To replace with another liner, the total project would be close to \$500,000.

Meltzer asked what it would look like. Estes answered there are multiple options.

One that would not make the channel too wide and take up park area would be a plastic mesh. This mesh is woven with a coconut fiber. It can be done, the installation costs will vary and the maintenance costs will go up for sure.

Briggs asked if a natural channel liner would protect the water shed better than the concrete one. Estes answered it can.

Estes also added that staff is doing the drainage improvements for Locust and Elm and looking at the entire length of Pecan Creek and where the flooding concerns are. There was discussion regarding the different kinds of drainage channels.

5. Matrix

Item 1 was covered

Item 2 and 5 Ethan Cox Solid Waste

Item 3 Air Quality Monitors – Talking to Kenneth Banks

Item 4 Sustainability Committee – Reinstitute a former committee to look over some items.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

Under Section 551.042 of the Texas Open Meetings Act, respond to inquiries from the Committee on the Environment or the public with specific factual information or recitation of policy, or accept a proposal to place the matter on the agenda for an upcoming meeting AND Under Section 551.0415 of the Texas Open Meetings Act, provide reports about items of community interest regarding which no action will be taken, to include: expressions of thanks, congratulations, or condolence; information regarding holiday schedules; an honorary or salutary recognition of a public official, public employee, or other citizen; a reminder about an upcoming event organized or sponsored by the governing body; information regarding a social, ceremonial, or community event organized or sponsored by an entity other than the governing body that was attended or is scheduled to be attended by a member of the governing body or an official or employee of the municipality; or an announcement involving an imminent threat to the public health and safety of people in the municipality that has arisen after the posting of the agenda

Briggs – Presentation on the outcome of the pest management program, Parks is working on this.

Briggs - Dallas passed a Climate Action Plan (Barnett is aware of this), would like a staff write-up on what this actually is and their plans.

There was a question and answer session from the members of the public.

Adjournment: 12:26 pm

Approved on April 1, 2019