



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Environmental Sustainability Division

m e m o r a n d u m

TO: Sustainability Advisory Commission
FROM: Scott R. Tess, Environmental Sustainability Manager
DATE: June 29, 2016
SUBJECT: Communication to the Commission Chair

Marya Ryan, Sustainability Advisory Commission Chair, requested that the following email sent to her on June 27, 2016 by Cope Cumpston be included in the Commission packet.

Hi Marya — I'm writing after some conversation between Danielle and Scott about open seats on the SAC. I had suggested that a student might be considered — when I was on the Human Relations Commission we had a special designation for an ex officio seat for a high school student. I made it a point to recruit one each year. It was good for the student and good for the commission. It did take some effort to reach out; I generally went through a teacher at UHS and then personally contacted and encouraged students I heard were interested. City processes can be daunting, so that contact can make the difference.

Particularly for issues of sustainability in Urbana, a youth perspective could be a critical addition since they'll be reaping the results of the efforts you're making. And aware in different ways of the threats we're facing environmentally.

I guess it would require a change in the by-laws through the city council; it's probably a simple process.

Scott told me your next commission meeting is July 19; I'll be out of town then, so here's my communication for that meeting. I'd be glad to come to a later one if that would make a difference. I know that one student, who has been active in the Pester Power project, did apply for the commission but didn't hear anything from the city. It might be worth extending an invitation to him to attend

meetings and get to know people. He's Sage, I don't have contact or a last name for for him. Danielle does, and it's probably in the city file of applications.

best wishes — I appreciate the work you're doing.

Cope