

My name is Christopher Updike, as you know. You also know I am a fellow Councilman for this great city. But, right now I am talking to you as a citizen of the city. I have had this idea for a while and did little research on it. But after more and more research, to me, found out this is a bigger issue. At first it was about my life in the city. But again more reading it became clear on how to make this city better for my young adult children. On Christmas day, this initiative now, took a whole new life. That's when Liddia Grace, my granddaughter, entered my life. Now this project is to make the City of Republic better for Liddia's generation and beyond.

Now, this issue I have mentioned is something we all have dealt with. It's something we can get better at and don't realize. It's something that we can do but don't. Now, it's something Liddia Grace will face as an adult. Its sustainability. It's easy to overlook and easy to miss. It's also understandably to change and we don't really mean to ignore it.

Tonight, I am going to bring to you this idea and hopefully, it's something we can continue to talk about.

A great man named David Cameron once gave us a book that not a lot of us even opened. It's something about pillars that hold up something like his house we live in. he also once said that "People trust clear air and distrust ambiguous". Now I thought it was weird until I realized he meant clarity and not clear air. Then later, he kept asking us who has a monkey. I didn't know I didn't have a monkey and knew, now, he meant something else by it. In the book "TRUST EDGE" by Davis Horsager, we outlines 7 pillars a city should be on the same page about. I agree with this and want to add 4 smaller pillars that should be stood on also.

Sustainability is defined as: *noun*

1. The ability to be maintained at a certain rate or level

Or

- Avoidance of the depletion of natural resources in order to maintain an ecological balance.
- * used by the Oxford Dictionary.

But, in this project I want to use it as a verb. An action to bring out the best we can do.

The First Pillar of this Sustainability Initiative is Social. Social sustainability aims to preserve social capital by investing and creating services that constitute the framework of our society. The concept accommodates a larger view of the world in relation to communities, cultures and globalization. It means to preserve future generations and to acknowledge that what we do can have an impact on others and on the world. Social sustainability focuses on maintaining and improving social quality with concepts such as cohesion, reciprocity and honesty and the importance of relationships amongst people.*

The Parks and Rec Department of the City has already got great programs and host a wide variety of events. There is also groups like, Kiwanis, Chamber of Commerce, and local charities and non-profits who would events also.

Here is 3 ideas that the city could possibly do to keep a more social impact on us.

- a. Low Power Radio Station. Maximus range on these is low cost and has a radius of about 3 miles. Which would be anywhere within city limits.
- b. Local TV station. We had a scrolling info channels for a while that broadcasted the Council meetings. We can restart this and host live events, sports events, local happenings and anything else City related.
- c. Team with the Historical Society and co-host events to bring our proud city closer to the front. Maybe team up and build the old Depot location off Main and Walnut Streets. Move the Society over there.

Project idea 1. Pop Up Events. Meaning that these events can pop up in a business parking lot, empty field, HOA, local neighborhood or anywhere we can great permission. We can even go out and say that we can do pop up events in any local event. Sucker Days, Apple Butter Making Days or any area city where we can go out and be friendly. Cities like Clever, Billings, Aurora, Mt Vernon, or Marionville would be ideal to strengthen a bond with. WE even could go out and say any regional or state event we can go and set up a booth to say HI to anyone we shake hands with.

Project idea 2. City Merchandise. We could create. Develop and print our own line of clothing. We can print stickers, caps, beanies, cups or anything we can easily sell or give away at pop up events. We could offer contests and prizes for people who create ideas and we put them into use. We even could poke fun at ourselves and create a line with the old Logo and leave the Fish blank or add a black/orange stripe to signify our schools colors.

Project idea 3. Tourism. We have in fact a National Historical Place registered within the City Limits. Where is it? 406 N Pine. The Elijah Teague House. We can develop a list of 20 places TO DO or SEE or EAT in the Republic area. Like a Must Visit, Must See and Must Eat kind of thing. For example, Visit the Ray House at Wilsons Creek National Battlefield before going to E's Inn for lunch. This list brought up can be put up for the People of Republic and voted on by the city. We could also add local spots close to Republic and help boost any smaller town we add to the list and help out our friends.

The Social impact of this is numerous and we would also be generating a new source of families who are thinking about moving here. The more social we can be can only bring a positive impact to the area, not just Republic.

The Second Pillar of the Sustainability Initiative is Human. Human sustainability aims to maintain and improve the human capital in society. Investments in the health and education systems, access to services, nutrition, knowledge and skills are all programs under the umbrella of human sustainability. Human sustainability encompasses the development of skills and human capacity to support the functions and sustainability of the organization and to promote the wellbeing of communities and society.*

This pillar is key to me and the reasoning why are ideas of Projects 1 and 2.

First, Education. Education is vital to the world we live in. Our local school district does an outstanding job. As for students, staff and even the district (athletic and scholarly or the schools themselves) have been award winners and recognized by the state on numerous occasions. As a city, we put our kids first. We have even opened an OTC outreach here in town. We also love and pay attention to our local home school kids as well. The reasoning is that the more info we put out the citizens can create their own opinion and see everything we put out. The more knowledge we put out even on social media can impact us both good and bad. The best thing is, that if anyone wants to reach out to anyone in the city they can. We will listen to anyone and will explore options to try to remedy the situation.

Secondly, Healthcare. The city has been grateful for our medical facilities being upgrade by Jordon Valley and Cox. WE have other types of doctor types here in town. Chiropractors, Masseuses, and other as well. That would include Counselors, Therapists, and Pharmacists. Ideally, we would partner with Cox or Mercy to create a small hospital for non-critical, minor surgeries, and non-life threatening ER. This would also lessen the burden of Urgent Care or ERs at Cox and Mercy. Locations like Monett or Aurora would be seen as models. We need the availability of strong healthcare to make sure we stay strong.

The Third Pillar of the Sustainability Initiative is Economic. Economic sustainability aims to maintain the capital intact. If social sustainability focuses on improving social equality, economic sustainability aims to improve the standard of living. In the context of business, it refers to the efficient use of assets to maintain company profitability over time.* It also refers to practices that support long-term economic growth without negatively impacting social, environmental, and cultural aspects of the community.*

Project 1 is Recycling. The key is that we have a center that we keep open more available to the public. We can have special recycling days that we can take in electronics only. Making sure those electronics don't get sent to our local landfills. We can have special large appliance day. People can bring out their old furniture, refrigerators, beds, or any items deemed too large for local trash companies. Any of these we can cohost with any local trash service and bring out their dump bins and have dedicated trucks there to refill and dispose of any said items. This way it would lessen the burden of local businesses that have to deal with people who illegally dump items in their trash and having to deal with it. This would make sure items that are bad for our land are disposed of properly.

Project 2. Urban Farming. This may be not what you think or maybe it does. With the price of food going up, people have been spending less on food and trying to grow it themselves. Budgets for food in some families in the city aren't the same door to door. The city can partner up with, for example, Convoy of Hope. The idea would be to hold classes for the citizens on how to grow the best crops they can and be able to help feed their family. After the classes, people can go into their backyard and start a small garden to support the family. Of course we have numbers to call for any info, questions or advice people would need. This could also bring neighbors together if one has an excess of something they have grown.

To make this point, anyone of us can help ourselves economically on a daily basis. We can save money by:

- a. Hanging clothes outside or in a covered deck
- b. Composting leftovers as fertilizer
- c. Buying energy efficient appliances
- d. Collect rainwater for plants and animals
- e. Grow, in previous mentioned, a garden.

The Fourth and last Pillar of the Sustainability Initiative is Environment. Environmental sustainability aims to improve human welfare through the protection of natural capital (e.g. land, air, water, minerals etc.). Initiatives and programs are defined environmentally sustainable when they ensure that the needs of the population are met without the risk of compromising the needs of future generations. This places emphasis on how the city or local businesses on how they can achieve positive outcomes without doing any harm, in the short or long term to the environment.

Project 1. The idea of protecting the Earth is EV Chargers. Now with the growth of EV vehicles we need to make sure we can keep up with this. Having EV chargers around town would welcome people to drive to Republic and shop. They know that there is a charging unit outside and stay around a little longer. EV chargers start for commercial units at around \$300 and run up to \$2000 OR LESS. With the price in mind, there is several ways we can defer cost and purchase of the units. There is many opportunities to look into:

- a. MoDot
- b. State of Mo
- c. Federal Highway Commission
- d. Federal Community Program
- e. Federal DOT through the Infrastructure Investment of Jobs Act
- f. National League of Cities
- g. EPA
- h. ARPA

Now the customer side. It would cost on average \$.12/ KWH to charge an EV and charge them as low as \$.50 a minute to hook up to a unit. So, if an EV parks and charges up for an hour, it would cost someone \$30 while costing us \$7.20 for same electricity. We can sell bulk time, subscriptions, or a flat fee that is charged to a debit/credit card.

Now the fees from these units can be used a couple of ways. One, use a portion of the fees collected to pay off student lunch debt or a way seemed appropriate by the committee. Another way is to use fees on the maintenance, upgrades and costs of work done on them. As in what it collects will pay for the units themselves.

Project 2. Dark Sky Park. This idea behind this is a park where people can take their stuff out and due astronomy. These people would also recommend Brookline park (ideal location) and have groups come out on designated nights with off duty officers there for any disruption. Partnerships we can do this is with Missouri State, Drury, Evangel, Baker Observatory, or become a Dark Sky Alliance member. International Dark-Sky Alliance would be able to put Republic on their map as a location to see and visit. This would also bring in a new tourism street we have not thought of.

Project 3. Carpooling/ Public Transportation. Social, Economic and environmental ideas would be a huge boon for the city in many of ways.

- a. Reduces greenhouse gasses
- b. Reduces miles on vehicles to make them last a little longer
- c. Reduces miles on a vehicle that needs less repairs.
- d. Reduces air pollution

Opening a carpool lot on a vacant piece of land where people can park their cars and ride with someone else. Lots can/would be patrolled often and make sure those cars are safe. Just develop the site with chained in area and have it well lighted and cameras possibly.

Develop a Mass transit system is widely been mentioned before. Creating a dedicated bus route from Springfield to say Walmart on a designate time pattern to let us go into Springfield and leave the car behind. OTO has been in discussion about this with a lot of other local communities and is on their radar.

Offer a local taxi company like Yellow Cab a location to run an office out of Republic. We all have seen their cars here a lot in town anyways. Offer a deal to see if they would be open to opening a location in town and make it more accessible to people, especially ones with disabilities.

Walkable/Bikeable paths. The City, OTO and Wilsons Creek have already been in discussion, planning and creating a pathway to link up the Ozarks Greenway path. A more risky ideas is to close off streets for pedestrian use only. Locations can be discussed or looked into.

IN CONCLUSION

The Easiest way to start something is to quit talking or griping about it and begin to do it. This can create new friends, relationships and memories.

Nature Knows Best

All Forms of Life are Equally Important

Everything is Connected

Everything Changes

Everything must go Somewhere

Everything Started with an Idea

Ours is a Finite Earth

Friendship is another Word for Love

Thanking you for letting me bring this idea to you. I have worked hard and did my research before bring this to you. Any quotes, mentions or questions I have on reference and available. I hope you would take this Initiative to heart and start an open dialogue and start the ball rolling. If you want to want change, you have to invite chaos.

Councilman Christopher Updike