

**CITY OF FOREST GROVE
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
COMMUNITY AUDITORIUM
THURSDAY, July 28, 2016 – 6:00 P.M.**

Councilor Victoria Lowe

Brian Schimmel, Chair
Deke Gundersen
Hope Kramer
Robin Lindsley
Elaine Cole
Leslie Applegate Lanzar
Diane Taniguchi-Dennis

Dale Feik
John Hayes
Edgar Fausto
Karin Pfeiffer-Hoyt
Mitch Taylor
Jacob Rose

All public meetings are open to the public and all persons are permitted to attend any meetings except as otherwise provided by ORS 192:

➔ Citizen Communications – Anyone wishing to speak on an issue not on the agenda should sign in for Citizen Communications prior to the meeting. The presiding officer will call the individual or group by the name given on the sign in form. Each person must state his or her name and give an address for the record.

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CALL TO ORDER:

Sustainability Commission Present: Chair Brian Schimmel, Robin Lindsley, Edgar Fausto, Leslie Applegate Lanzar, Elaine Cole, Hope Kramer, Karin Pfeiffer-Hoyt

Excused Absence: Hope Kramer, Mitch Taylor, John Hayes

Absent: Diane Taniguchi-Dennis,

Council Present: Councilor Victoria Lowe

Staff Present: Jon Holan, Community Development Director, Brandi Walstead, Program Coordinator, George Cress, Director Light & Power

Guests: Melanie Estrada, Clyde Wolf, Cecelia Warner

1. REGULAR MEETING: Chair Schimmel called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Chair Schimmel presented a new format for meeting agendas by adding both a ‘preparation and process’ components for each topic item. In addition, Chair Schimmel requested future public service announcements and or other information be made ready ten days prior to meetings for electronic distribution, by having the information in advance we will be able to conduct our meetings more efficient.

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS: Chair Schimmel introduced Clyde Wolf who is a resident of Hillsboro. Mr. Wolf, I’m here tonight because I’m interested in what the Commission is doing, and specifically what we can do about pushing the Council towards decarbonizing the world.

2. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Chair Schimmel asked for amendments or additions to the minutes of the June 23 meeting. Minutes approved by consensus.
3. **ADDITIONS/DELETIONS:** Commissioner Feik, I want the Commission to support the 'letter to the editor' entitled "City Council failing to lead charge against air pollution". Mayor Truax recently won a state award due to some extent from our work toward environmental sustainability.

Councilor Lowe emphasized the need for the Commission to hold the elected officials feet in the fire over Commissioner's concerns. It's the Council's job to determine if the issues we raise is policy of the City or not. Don't be afraid to raise your voice and raise them to the next level of elected officials. Hold our feet to the fire.

Commissioner Lindsley, I would like the article "31 ways for commissioners to respond to global warming" to come from our Commission requesting the Council read and comment. Chair Schimmel, do you want the Commission to recommend an action for the Council to undertake in regards to this article. Commissioner Gundersen, I would like feedback from Council, what are their thoughts on the letter of concern we sent them; what do they think about it. Chair Schimmel asked Councilor Lowe if the Council discussed the letter at a Council meeting. Councilor Lowe said no, they did not discuss the letter. If you are asking for a response back from Council, these requests need to go through the City Manager. These issues must be looked at for any legal concerns that might be a problem for the City.

Mr. Holan, according to the bylaws, employees deal with City issues not policy issues. Commission requests need to go through your Council liaison then through the City Manager. The other option is the Council can vote to add an item on the agenda according to Council rules. You make a request through your Councilor to the City Manager ten days prior to a council meeting. Councilor Lowe, there is a third way, you can move a subject along by going through your vision statement process based on that vision. Commissioner Feik felt it was an important issue for further discussion. I have raised my concerns at Council meetings as an individual now I want to raise them through the Commission to Council. Chair Schimmel, in moving an item to the Council we need to be more specific on what actions we are asking them to do.

Mr. Holan, in regards to the letter of concern and the lack of Council discussion; there was confusion with another letter (Hood River and the Nesli bottled water proposal) at the same time. It wasn't clear of what actions were being asked of the Council. A clear way of requesting an action by Council is to follow the procedures in the bylaws for getting an item on the agenda. Commissioner Pfeiffer Hoyt asked, when the Council votes to take an action on an item do they review their decision process by our Sustainability Action Plan. Mr. Holan, you need to determine if a request from the Commission is a policy item or an action item listed in the Plan.

Ms. Walstead, I recommend you move your Work Plan up through Councilor Lowe who then will have it requested to be placed on the Council agenda. In addition, the Commission needs to align the subcommittees to determine who is working on what.

Chair Schimmel, our Work Plan aligns with the City's Fiscal Year so we are coordinated with financial issues with the city's budget.

4. PLUS/DELTA: no discussion

5. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: no discussion

6. STAFF UPDATE: Mr. Holan, in regards to climate change, there is no overall policy in the Plan, there are specific items or tasks that impact climate change, i.e. transportation plan. The actions you're taking now are getting away from the Action Plan. I'm not saying don't do it but keep in mind the Council has approved the Action Plan that was submitted by the Commission. Commissioner Gundersen asked Mr. Holan, so if an idea, i.e., setting up an internship with Pacific University is not specifically mentioned in the Plan, can we still do it.

Mr. Holan announced as a reminder, Commission members are considered to be city employees according to state law and therefore cannot campaign for elected officials and ballot measures. It is prohibited under state law. Kitchen pails are rescheduled to arrive mid-August. The pails needed to be redesigned with a thicker wall. The reusable bags will be stuffed in the pails and distributed to single family residences. Volunteers were asked to help with distribution. Ms. Walstead contacted stores in the City to announce that the plastic bag ban has commenced.

Ms. Walstead informed the Commission that she received a letter (see handout) from police officer Pomaroy describing the growing concern about garbage and human waste left under the bridges in town. I also forward the letter on to Ms. Taniguchi-Dennis due to the issue of possible water way contamination. This issue involves ODOT due to potential damage to bridges over waterways. We would like address their concern prior to the rainy season. The police officer will come to a future meeting and address their concerns.

7. PRESENTATION: CEP mini-grant fund request for the Shake & Fold project by Cecilia Warner (see grant request form). Shake & Fold will reduce the amount of waste being hauled to the Columbia Ridge Landfill in Arlington. Ms. Warner displayed a video for members depicting the Shake & Fold program. The goals of the project are to improve the appearance of environmental quality of the community, reduce the amount or toxicity of waste and benefit youth, seniors, low-income persons and/or underserved populations. I'm here tonight to ask for enough funds to print 500 stickers for the local schools to inform kids on this program to reduce the usage of paper towels. Billy Goldsmith has been assisting me on this project. The original request was for \$495, I've subsequently found out that this amount will not be sufficient to purchase 500 stickers. So I'm changing my request for \$595. I will target five schools. The grant money will pay for the art work and printing. The schools are in favor for this program, I would like this to be a pilot for future programs and schools. My labor is in-kind for the project.

Chair Schimmel, we have funded nine projects last year with x amount of grant funds. This year we have \$6,100 available for mini-grants. We can offer Ms. Warner a larger amount than the original request for \$495. Commissioner Feik moved to support the grant request for \$595, seconded by Commissioner Lindsley. Motion approved with one nay vote by Commissioner Cole. Ms. Walstead, I will need an amended grant application that reflects the increased amount requested.

8. TOPIC AREA:

21 Youth Letter: Commissioner Feik made a motion to accept the edited letter and pass it on to Council for their consideration. I want them to read it and express their support for the “21 youth”. Motion seconded to accept the document (see handout) and asking Council to express their support by proclamation or resolution. Discussion followed to final wordsmithing and layout of the document. Vote taken motion passed. Councilor Lowe will process the request to be placed on the Council agenda for consideration.

9. TOPIC AREA: Commissioner Cole read a memo about provisions to Oregon’s Bottle Bill and Deposit Center. I want to bring to everyone’s attention that next April 2017 the redemption rate is going up to 10 cents. In addition, a beverage deposit center has been proposed for the former Block Buster building.

10. TOPIC AREA: Chair Schimmel asked for what action to take in response to the City Council’s letter. Councilor Lowe to take this up with Council. Ms. Walstead the recent webinar a few of us saw has some good information regarding ways to approach climate change discussions with elected officials. Commissioner’s Feik and Gundersen viewed portions of the three webinars. Discussion followed on the merits and strategies for promoting the discussion on climate change. Chair Schimmel, are there things we should incorporate from the webinar in our Work Plan. We need to get the community engaged and aware. Focus on local observance and benefits to the public.

11. TOPIC AREA: FY2016-17 Work Plan: Topic Area Priorities: Chair Schimmel introduced guest, Mr. Dave Anderson, Chairman of CCI. I welcome the opportunity to work with the Commission. Chair Schimmel, in the future we can expect members of the CCI to attend our meetings, in the past we’ve had members of our Commission work on projects together, i.e. plastic bag ban.

Chair Schimmel we can work on topics that are not specifically mentioned in the Work Plan. We can amend the Work Plan to accommodate new ideas.

Chair Schimmel asked the Commission for new topics. Commissioner Lindsley, I want to introduce the idea for solar energy for the City. Mr. Cress briefly discussed solar projects in the City. Commissioner Lindsley mentioned that she invited Josh Kopczynski, a solar consultant to visit her and Mr. Cress at a future date. Chair Schimmel, so we want to add solar power generation for the City to our Work Plan.

Ms. Walstead mentioned that she received information from 3 City residences regarding the issue of HOA's not allowing solar arrays on their roofs.

Commissioner Lindsley, want to add for education and awareness the Food Garden Expo for a future symposium.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the recommendation made in the three climate change webinars, solar power and the minor edits to the proposed FY2016-17 Work Plan. Motion passed by consensus.

- **Commission Engagements:** no discussion
- **Media relations:** no discussion

12. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS: no discussion

13. Future Agenda TOPICS: Next month's agenda items include; resiliency article "31 Ways", solar discussion, Commissioner Feik's recent court case.

14. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted
George Cress, Director
Light & Power