

**CITY OF FOREST GROVE  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
COMMUNITY AUDITORIUM**

**THURSDAY, October 27, 2016 – 6:00 P.M.**

Councilor Victoria Lowe

Brian Schimmel, Chair  
Deke Gundersen  
Hope Kramer  
Robin Lindsley  
Elaine Cole  
Jacob Rose

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

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**CALL TO ORDER:**

**Sustainability Commission Present:** Chair Brian Schimmel, Vice Chair Mitch Taylor, Robin Lindsley, Edgar Fausto, Elaine Cole, Mitch Taylor, Deke Gundersen, Dale Feik, John Hayes, Alternate Kayleigh DeBruyne

**Excused Absence:** Jacob Rose, Hope Kramer, Karin Pfeiffer-Hoyt

**Absent:**

**Council Present:** Councilor Victoria Lowe

**Staff Present:** Rob Foster, Director Engineering/Public Works

**Guests:** Melanie Estrada, Timothy Rippe, Nick Levesque

**1. REGULAR MEETING:** Chair Schimmel called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. Chair Schimmel reported on the Council's adopting the Commission's recommended changes to its by-laws. Council approved Kayleigh DeBruyne as the alternate voting member for Jacob Rose, Melanie Estrada was approved as a representative from the high school commencing January 1, 2017. Chair Schimmel also made mention of the results from the Recycling Survey that was part of the Recycling Workshop held earlier this summer, see handout for results.

**COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS:** no communications

2. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Chair Schimmel asked for amendments or additions to the minutes of the September 22, 2016 meeting. Minutes approved by consensus with minor edits by Commissioner's Cole and Lindsley.
3. **ADDITIONS/DELETIONS:** none presented
4. **PLUS/DELTA:** Commissioner Lindsley asked Chair Schimmel to be more observant to folks who raise their hands to make a statement on a topic and may not be recognized to speak. Chair Schimmel stated he will strive to be more observant of folks who may want to speak.
5. **COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT:** Councilor Lowe, read a letter, date October 18, from Chair Lewis of the Joint Water Consortium to Metro Councilor Shirley Craddick. Next year, Metro will be withdrawing from the Consortium mainly for financial reasons. See attached letter. The Joint Water Consortium is comprised of 28 municipal water providers; Metro is not a water provider. Councilor Lowe is a liaison representing Forest Grove on the Consortium. Mr. Foster, the Water Consortium is a valuable organization to the City. The City doesn't have a water expert on staff; the Consortium provides technical expertise in this area for the City.

Chair Schimmel introduced candidate for City Council, Mr. Rippe.

6. **STAFF REPORT:** Mr. Holan and Ms. Walstead were not present for the meeting and no staff update was provided.
7. **TOPIC AREA: Mayor Debrief:** Chair Schimmel asked members for their feedback from the recent meeting with the Mayor. Commissioner Gundersen, I couldn't believe my ears I didn't know what he was saying. Commissioner Cole agreed with Commissioner Gundersen. Members were concerned over Council not taking a stand on the Commission's concerns to global environmental issues. Commissioner Lindsley read the minutes from the Mayor's address to the Commission, are there big picture issues we can talk about with the Council. We need to educate both the community and the Council on our stance regarding regional environmental issues and how they apply here.

Vice Chair Taylor, is there an action item coming out from our discussion with the Mayor. I hope we don't drop the big picture issues. I know the Council only deals with items within city borders. Commissioner Gundersen, does the Council understand the problems we have and the urgency of these issues. Vice Chair Taylor, we need to educate the Council and bring them along on the issues. We need a more effective way to communicate with them.

Chair Schimmel, we had the opportunity with the Mayor. When we have our workshop with the Council we need to communicate our top priorities to them.

Commissioner Feik, decreasing the environmental impacts on air, water, and soil is the name of the game and how we protect it. That is why I have strong feelings in regards to the Youth

21 law suit. Commissioner Hayes, I believe the Council does not want to get ahead of the voters on environmental issues. We saw this when Commissioner Cole and myself met with Councilor Johnson, who came up with a lot of tasks for moving on the plastic bag ban ordinance before the Council would discuss the proposal. My feelings are, we need to come up with a work plan and bring it to the Council. Not all issues are under the purview of the Council. We can take some initiatives to the public like energy efficiency measures and educate them on the need.

Mr. Foster, the Council is directed by the voters and they will not give you a direct yes or no answer to political related questions. The Sustainability Commission is the first commission that I know of to ask for endorsements on big political environmental issues, the Council is not used to responding in a yes or no reply without inquiry from the voters. I think the Commission has accomplished a lot on tasks that were overwhelmingly opposed by those responding to the city survey and yet the Council supported them.

- 8. Topic AREA: Sustainability Symposium.** Commissioner Lindsley, I'll take the overall point on this project. My plan is to conduct workshops around town with keynote speakers with a theme of how we become sustainably resilient (see handout). I would like each member to take on a chunk of this activity and be a lead to make the workshop be successful. The workshops will demonstrate ways our local people are moving toward building resilience. I would like to bring Bill McKibben here as a paid speaker. That means we need to have money available to pay for speakers and event activities. We can be the model to get things done for our community to become sustainably resilient.
- 9. Topic AREA: Work Plan:** Vice Chair Taylor, stated his appreciation for the feedback from members who submitted their ideas on identifying work plan priorities and plan tasks. Our goal is to identify the top five items we want to make happen, not necessarily how we are going to make it happen. Vice Chair Taylor provided a handout that summarized the feedback that was given. We will start splitting after we start lumping, i.e. education with its eight topical areas.

Chair Schimmel, as an example a grant is a resource not a topical area.

Commissioner Cole stated her priorities for the work plan which included topics of energy conservation LED lights for city buildings, back yard burn, and recycling in the schools. Working with other commissions, I like the synergy working with other groups.

Commissioner Lindsley, my big thing is planning for the Sustainability Symposium. I like to have other groups working together over a one or two day event. Collaboration is very important especially with city staff on finding out what they're working on especially energy stuff.

Commissioner Feik, I read through the materials that were submitted and was impressed with Commissioner Gundersen and Lindsley of what they had to say. To me it's all about protecting the air, water, and soil. To get there its politics and perseverance, I look at

Eugene and their high school students who are successful in pushing through their environmental initiatives through the political system. The student group had political will.

Commissioner Fausto, I'm supportive of topical monthly articles in an electronic format on what the Commission is about and what we're working on. I would like people to email me or other members so we can get back to people quickly. I feel strongly about both sustainable measures for school nutrition gardens and social equity issues.

Commissioner DeBruyne, I think the Sustainability Summit is a great idea; Sustainability Club students from Pacific are interested. I think having a series of workshops leading up to the Symposium might be a strategy that would draw more awareness leading up to the main event. My other interest is concerning food and gardens at schools. I also feel strongly about material management/composting, and social equity topics are important especially earning a living wage is a sustainable equity goal.

Commissioner Gundersen, I want to educate the people of the City and Council on how severe the environmental problems are. We have to find ways to educate the people to let them know the severity of the environmental problems facing us. Ongoing programs I'm interested include working on the Clean Water Services plan for growing food at Fernhill Wetlands. I would like the Commission to have input on that and Pacific's bamboo forestry program. Creating sustainability internships with Pacific and finding opportunities for students in the environmental sustainability field is another strong concern. Also finding incentives to reduce the amount of lawns and homeowner's use of fertilizers for growing lawns is important as well as encouraging more home owners to have more gardens. Holding a science pub in the local area is an activity I would like to be involved with.

Chair Schimmel, my clumps are the following; local foods system, reduce material waste, energy conservation, and service equity. The splits to get there are; food garden nutrition programs, recycle containers in the schools and working with Metro on the next generation of recycling programs, city energy conservation programs, Latino summit's and their request to form a police advisory board, city affordable housing program planning, engaging other boards and commissions on land use policy and back yard burning regulations are a couple of examples.

Commissioner Hayes, I agree with McKibben on a brewing environmental catastrophe, I want to work more on energy conservation, education and programs, like accessory dwelling units, creating a sliding fee structure for smaller type housing where larger new homes will pay higher development fees per square foot to subsidize small energy efficient homes. I support the LED replacement program. Since I'm on the school board I have access to information regarding their programs and facilities. The schools have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars for upgrades to their heating and cooling systems. The money came through the school bond fund. What they don't do is educate folks on energy consumption. Transportation is one of the largest consumers of energy and fossil fuels for driving automobiles, especially single rider commuters. Single rider commuters are up to 90% for any given city.

Vice Chair Taylor, wow I would like to do them all. We are here to affect behavior, it's about bringing people along, their lack of understanding and education is key to moving forward. I

think in educating young people we will get the biggest bang for our buck. By helping with sustainable schools we would also be recruiting young people to become knowledgeable in sustainable practices. We have plenty of people in this city to tap into to let them know what we're doing. I believe in building relationships, building trust and understanding to get people to buy in with what we're doing, we need to affect change.

Commissioner Hayes, I think a good way to recruit more people is to hold a science or sustainability pub and by holding a series of sustainability workshops or a symposium. I think we need to move on this, can we make a decision on this topic at the next meeting.

Mr. Levesque, a way to reach people especially college students is through an e-newsletter. You can reach a large amount of folks by using this.

Vice Chair Taylor asked each member to rank their priorities by indicating their preference by voting on the list of topic areas that are indicated on the large pad on the table. I will tally the results for the next meeting.

**10. Topic Area: Pacific U. Pipeline:** Mr. Levesque a student a Pacific U. and a member of school's Sustainable Society ( see project pipeline plan handout). I will try to recruit students, there is no certainty of people and time available to work on projects. Lots of people are interested, I mentioned earlier the notion of having an e-newsletter to reach more people to generate awareness this might be an effective way to generate support from students. Mr. Levesque also mentioned the Star Program which is a rating system for colleges in the area concerning their investment programs.

Chair Schimmel, we will draw up a list of projects where we need student help on and pass it through the Pipeline to recruit students to help with a project or be an intern.

**11. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS:** None presented at this time.

**12 FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS:** Next month's agenda to include Work Plan priorities, Pacific U. Pipeline topics.

**13. Plus/Delta:** None presented at this time.

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

Respectfully Submitted  
George Cress, Director  
Light & Power