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**CITY OF FOREST GROVE
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
COMMUNITY AUDITORIUM
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26TH, 2017 – 6:00 P.M.**

Mitch Taylor, Chair	Mayor Pete Truax	Jacob Rose, Vice Chair
Brian Schimmel		Tabitha Merten
Deke Gundersen		Amber Nieves
Robin Lindsley		Melanie Estrada
Dale Feik		Hope Kramer
(Kayleigh DeBruyne)		

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.

All public meetings are handicap accessible. Assistive Listening Devices (ALD) or qualified sign language interpreters are available for persons with impaired hearing or speech. For any special accommodations, please contact the City Recorder, at (503) 992-3235, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Sustainability Commission Present: Chair Mitch Taylor, Vice Chair Jacob Rose, Robin Lindsley, Brian Schimmel, Amber Nieves, Tabitha Merten, Deke Gundersen

Council Present: Mayor Truax

Staff Present: Paul Downey, Administrative Services Director; Brandi Walstead, Program Coordinator

Guests: Group of students from Pacific University

1. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS:

Group of Pacific University students on class assignment are sitting in to see how community meetings work.

2. CONSENT AGENDA:

Mr. Rose made a motion to approve the July and September minutes with corrections, Ms. Merten seconded. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS:

- Mr. Feik, 3 minutes to speak at end of meeting.
- Mr. Schimmel, present food donation guides.

4. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT:

Mayor Truax –

Local option levy renewal voting closes 11/7 at 8 PM.

Community Action leadership lunch fundraiser was held 10/12 for homelessness, affordable housing and poverty in Washington County.

Community Development block rent meeting held 10/12. This is a county agency that gets federal funding for housing project, example is Juniper Gardens. This provides grants for public use facilities like the senior center kitchen remodel. It also provides funds for infrastructure. Rebuilding or building wells in poverty stricken areas to rebuild their water supply.

Affordable housing continues to be huge issue across the state.

Washington County Coordinating Council met Monday October 16th. Regional levy being proposed by transit to do improvements on the max line and other transportation services. Looking to do improvements throughout the metro area.

Council meeting work session on process for councilor selection. Matt Vandehey put in his resignation. Work session on the town center planning. There was a presentation on watershed logging update. Remove less board feet than are produced each year. There was a presentation on the Committee for Community involvement. They have plans in regards to the annual town meeting in January. They want to discuss the Fire Agency. The Sustainability Commission video was presented.

MPAC had a meeting 10/25. They provide reports regarding land use, transportation, food waste collection programs and the regional transportation plan regarding technology.

There was talk about a metro concise tax that would go towards affordable housing.

Greater Portland Inc. is creating a proposal for Amazon to come to the Portland to the area.

Ms. Merten met with Mayor Truax to do research on a citizen's ability to bring change. The burn ban was discussed. Currently open burn for the City of Forest Grove is only in the spring. Eventually there will be a year round ban. It is just a matter of time.

Mr. Taylor queried Mayor Truax about funding or services for mass transportation coming to Forest Grove. 24 hour a day service for line 57 and new busses is on the agenda. The max line extending to Forest Grove is not happening any time soon.

5. STAFF REPORT:

Mr. Downey shared commissioner appointment details. Commissioners who have expiring terms will receive a renewal letter. A roster of current commissioners who's terms are up was presented and the process of renewal.

Metro has narrowed selection of food scrap services down to two choices, Sort Bio Energy and Waste Management. Neither plant is near Forest Grove. The rates will be an issue because of the distance. There are talks about how the issue of cost will be addressed.

Recycling costs are in flux while waiting for China to decide on whether or not they will be implementing stricter guidelines on contaminated plastics and paper products. Number 3 and

up plastics are the problem. Sorting has slowed down processing and waste is piling up at the recycling facility. This is already affecting our local services. Washington County is trying to put together a large social media campaign, “Recycle right, when in doubt throw it out.” Aloha Recycling is closed to the public. Waste management has not made any changes but is watching the market closely. The current rates may be impacted.

6. SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER:

Ms. Lindsley made a motion for November and December dates be changed to November 16th and December 14th. Mr. Schimmel second, discussed, voted and passed by majority.

7. MINI-GRANT PROPOSAL-PLASTIC TUMBLERS FOR FARMERS MARKET: No Action Taken – Future Agenda Topic for November.

8. CURRENT PROJECT PLANNING: SUST PUB

No news on venue.

Possible speaker suggestion by Ms. Lindsley, Kristin Olsen with topic, “The Soil Will Save Us”

Mr. Taylor had affirmation from Zackery Swick with Oregon Military Department Office of Emergency Management on speaking about the topic of “What do you do in a crisis?”

Stacey Metzger with the Fire Department is a potential option for a speaker.

Mr. Rose polled the commission to see if each member was still on board with the Knowledge Pub. All members were on board and willing to participate to continue organization and implementation of the project.

To Do List:

- Mr. Taylor will communicate with Mr. Gunderson about speaker commitments, topics and the venue availability.
- Ms. Lindsley will speak with her potential speakers to get synopsis of the topic they would like to share and date availability.
- Mr. Rose will speak with his potential speakers to get synopsis of the topics they would like to share and date availability.
- Ms. Estrada commits to doing a speaker search and contact.
- Next Knowledge Pub suggested potential date is a Wednesday in January 2018.
- Come prepared with proposed speaker/topic, dates and venue to be approved for project planning.
- See if Stacey Metzger with the Fire Department can come and speak to the commission.

9. CURRENT PROJECT PLANNING: Sustainability Article for the News Times

Chair Taylor asked that requests for article peer review be fulfilled so the articles can be submitted in a timely manner. He will be running the article as is.

Monthly article sign-up sheet was passed around for commissioner participation.

Articles can be physically brought in or emailed to the newspaper. If any edits are done the author will be notified.

Mr. Rose will have his article to commissioners by 11/9 for peer review.

10. CURRENT PROJECT PLANNING: CEP Grant Update

Mr. Schimmel –

Provided update on the amount of funds still available for issuance. Sustainability Commission flyers with grant information are available for sharing. Commissioners are encouraged to get the word out.

The funds can be used by projects sponsored and approved by the Sustainability Commission.

11. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS:

Items to be presented for council goals and objectives need to be submitted by the end of the fiscal year before January 1st. Last year's action plan needs to be reviewed/edited and prepared for submittal in the next meeting.

Mr. Feik - Forest Grove has such low energy rates that solar power is not cost effective. Suggests that everyone leave comments on net metering before 10/30.

Mr. Schimmel – Homelessness Challenge. Presented a Washington County food donation guide to give to restaurants. Pacific University collection is 50 to 100lbs a week.

Ms. Lindsley – Dairy Creek Community Food Web is collecting excess food from vendors and distributing it to local distribution centers.

Mr. Taylor asked fellow commissioners to please inform the commission ahead of time if a meeting will be missed. The commission is being hurt by poor attendance. How can the commission jumpstart commitment to the commission's purpose?

12. FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS:

- Cecelia Warner - CEP Grant revision to allow different allocation of funds for reusable cups.
- Review responsibilities of City Commissioners: Attendance
- Project Planning – Knowledge Pub
- Project Planning – Sustainability Article
- Current Action Plan Reviewed for Submittal to City Council

13. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kari Kent, Administrative Specialist
City of Forest Grove

Approved by the Forest Grove Sustainability Commission:

Date: 11/16/2017