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**CITY OF FOREST GROVE  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
COMMUNITY AUDITORIUM  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2018 – 6:00 P.M.**

Dale Feik, Chair	Mayor Pete Truax	Amber Nieves, Vice Chair
Brian Schimmel		Jacob Rose
Tabitha Merten		Deke Gundersen
Robin Lindsley		Kenneth Cobleigh
Hope Kramer		

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: Commissioner Rose called the meeting to order at 5:59 PM.**

**Sustainability Commission Present:** Chair Dale Feik, Robin Lindsley, Brian Schimmel, Vice Chair Amber Nieves, Tabitha Merten, Deke Gundersen, Jacob Rose, Kenneth Cobleigh

**Council Present:** Mayor Truax

**Staff Present:** Paul Downey, Administrative Services Director; Kari Kent, Administrative Specialist

**Guests:** Jennifer Parrow and Zeno Lagler, Forest Grove School District, Oak Grove Academy; Colin Hawkins, Neil Armstrong Middle School

**1. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS:**

Commissioner Rose introduced and welcomed newly appointed Commissioner Kenneth Colbliegh.

Kenneth comes to the commission with 34 years as an engineer for Boeing in aerospace. He is on the Parks and Recreation Commission. He was drawn to Forest Groves Sustainability Commission after seeing the successful mission to ban plastic grocery bags in the city. He serves as a steward for Fern Hill Wetlands. He volunteers for the Nature Conservancy of Oregon.

**2. CHAIR/VICE CHAIR NOMINATION VOTE:**

Commissioner Feik offered himself to be considered for Chair.

Commissioner Gundersen nominated Commissioner Feik for Chair.

**Commissioner Feik unanimously voted as Commission Chair.**

Commissioner Gundersen nominated Commissioner Nieves for Vice Chair

Commissioner Nieves nominated Commissioner Gundersen for Vice Chair

Commissioner Schimmel nominated Commissioner Rose for Vice Chair

It was determined that commissioner Rose was eligible despite the ending of his student status. The 3 nominees each made statements supporting why they felt they would be a good fit for the Vice Chair position.

Votes taken for Vice Chair. 5 votes for Commissioner Nieves, 0 votes for Commissioner Gundersen, 3 Votes for Commissioner Rose.

**Commissioner Nieves appointed Vice Chair by majority of commission votes.**

**3. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS:**

NONE

**4. CONSENT AGENDA:**

Dale Feik's name was misspelled.

**Commissioner Feik moved to accept minutes for December 14, 2017 with corrections. Motion passed unanimously.**

**5. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS:**

None

**6. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT:**

Mayor Truax provided a report of City Council –

- Urban Renewal received a voted increase from \$20,000 to \$60,000 for storefront improvement grants. The city wants to show its enthusiasm for the future of Forest Grove.
- Mayor attended 3 States of the City addresses in North Plains, Beaverton and King City. These were focused on opportunities for cities to address current issues in a positive manor. Hillsboro will have one January 30<sup>th</sup>, Tualatin February 1<sup>st</sup>, Tigard February 7<sup>th</sup>, Cornelius and Forest Grove will have theirs Monday February 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Elena Uhing will be the new Council Liaison. This will be transitioning over the next few meetings. There were several new appointments to liaisons.
- Val Valfre will be new liaison for Community Development Block Rent Program.
- Material that needs to be discussed across all commissions, boards and councils is the need for affordable housing. The need is immense. The City of Forest Grove does not have affordable housing. Forest Grove cannot expect the councilors to solve this problem without help. The commission is dealing with the three legged stool of Sustainability: Environmental, Economic and Social Injustice. Affordable housing hits social injustice. There are 72,000 people who work in Washington County who have to live somewhere else because they cannot afford to live here.
- New Liaison for Economic Development Commission is Councilor Rippe.
- March 3 tentative Annual Councilors Retreat.
- Annual Town Meeting Saturday January 27<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 12pm.

## **7. STAFF REPORT:**

Paul Downey provided staff report -

- Sustainability Commission Work Plan is scheduled to be presented to the council February 12. A Sustainability Commissioner must be there to present it.
- Fallon Harris has applied for a position on the Sustainability Commission and has an interview on February 26<sup>th</sup>.
- The City was awarded grant funds for bicycle repair stations.
- Metro food recycling delayed until they figure out how to reduce costs for businesses that are further away from recycling sites.

## **8. MINI GRANT APPLICANT: Colin Hawkins – Neil Armstrong Garden and Outdoor Program**

Mr. Hawkins is requesting grant money to build additional garden boxes and repair materials for current garden boxes. They started out with a gardening club for students. They are reaching to expand the program to a community garden.

**Motion to approve grant by Commissioner Rose. Seconded by Commissioner Schimmel. Motion approved unanimously by vote.**

## **9. MINI GRANT APPLICANT: Jennifer Parrow and Zeno Lagler – Oak Grove Academy School Garden and Landscaping**

Ms. Parrow is the Transition Coordinator at Oak Grove Academy that teaches children life skills. Mr. Lagler runs the garden program. They intend on using the funds to improve the appearance of the school by purchasing and planting shrubs and flowers along the perimeter of the school. They will purchase fruit trees, grape vines, seed packets, and soil. The existing “Free Produce” stand is stationary and inadequate in size. The grant money will help build a produce stand that is more adequate and is on wheels.

**Motion to approve grant by Commissioner Schimmel. Seconded by Commissioner Nieves. Motion approved unanimously by vote.**

## **10. COMMISSION VOTE ON GOOD NEIGHBOR AGREEMENT: MCG Pure**

- Mayor Truax– This topic was discussed with Ms. Walstead and the city Manager. Mayor did not get a chance to share this topic with the City Council. After some research on the topic no supporting information could be found on these types of agreements being done by councils or city entities. They are done with neighborhoods that the industries are in. They only example that was presented was between a community and a company. Not a city and a company.
- Mr. Downey – MCG will be submitting plans and the city goes through a regulatory process to approve the plans. MCG could bring up issue that the good neighbor agreement would interfere with city process that is guided by specific codes and ordinances.
- Mayor – The city cannot tie a good neighbor agreement to a permission to build.

- Chair Feik would like to let the previous motion stand while further research is done on this topic.
- Mr. Schimmel – what discretion does the commission have to help the neighboring communities. Do we have the discretion to help them formulate an agreement?
- Ms. Nieves – Can we change the semantics to help the neighborhoods.
- Mayor – City ordinances cannot override state and federal laws.
- Chair Feik – No Action. Postponed discussion for another day. Continue research. Set for agenda topic at next meeting.
- Chair Feik would like to meet with city officials to speak on this topic.
- Ms. Nieves and Mr. Feik will come up with a template of what the good neighbor policy will look like.
- Ms. Lindsley would like a research based report by a local science teacher and students on the MCG Pure. The report should be about the company's roots, and what they are doing.
- Chair Feik and Ms. Lindsley will find a local science teacher (preferably from middle school closest to MCG Pure location) to do a report.

## **11. CURRENT PROJECT PLANNING: KNOWLEDGE PUB**

Mr. Gundersen – There was a good crowd. Needs more organization still. Need comment sheet for people to give suggestions of future topics and speakers. Would be fun to have incentives or prizes. Better advertising. Again, each person needs to commit to bringing five people to the event. The pub was advertised through the utility bill, Face Book community page and Newstimes. Owner of theatre happy about turnout.

The old town church on the corner of 15<sup>th</sup> and Cedar has a newly renovated room. Good sound system and stage. There is a new coffee shop. Might be considered for an additional location?

Mr. Rose – a fair amount of the guests that he spoke with heard about the event from the advertising efforts made by the commission. The speakers need a thank you letter.

Mr. Rose, Mr. Gundersen and Mr. Feik will come up with thank you letters to the guest speakers.

Next pub primary date April 18<sup>th</sup>, Secondary date April 25<sup>th</sup> per decision made in December.

Ms. Lindsley will confirm speaker with the topic, The Soil Will Save Us; Farmers & Pesticides; Human Health with a Microbiologist.

Chair Feik – Do we need a committee to figure out the details of the next pub before the next meeting?

Ms. Merten, Mr. Gundersen, Mr. Rose and Ms. Lindsley will prepare proposal for next knowledge pub by the next meeting. (Who, What and Where?)

## **12. CURRENT PROJECT PLANNING: Sustainability Articles for the News Times**

Ms. Merten – Sent out article and received some feedback. Article was submitted the first week of January.

Ms. Lindsley will write the article for February and the topic will be “Why Talk About Food”, which will align for the April Knowledge Pub.

Articles should be submitted on Fridays in order to receive priority for printing.

### **13. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS:**

Ms. Merten – Looking into Housing Co-Ops and subject for consideration of discussion. Just wanting to get the idea out there to think about. Possible research topic to help with issues of affordable housing. No examples in the United States. Did find some examples in Canada. All tenants paying would be contributing to the mortgage and there would be no profit.

Mr. Feik – Environmental Quality Commission five members that sets policies about environment. They hire and fire the director of DEQ. Impressed with the new director, Richard Whitman. He knows what he is doing and is hiring a good staff. We need to make testimony for funding. Two bills are being considered, one for energy and one for air. We need to make sure we are pressuring legislatures and city councils that they take a stand for the earth and future generations. Monday January 29<sup>th</sup> from 6pm-8pm, there will be a meeting of the Washington County Citizen Action Network (WC CAN) in which Representatives Ken Helm, Susan McClain and Janeen Sollman and Senator Chuck Riley will address the Clean Energy Jobs Bills in both the House and Senate these two bills will be discussed. Please see Commissioner Feik for more details.

### **14. FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS:**

- Objectives for General Topics for the Councils Annual Retreat
- Objectives for Affordable Housing & Homelessness
- Project Planning – Committee proposal for Knowledge Pub
- Project Planning – Sustainability Article Sign Up Sheet
- Housing Co-Ops Research – Ms. Merten
- How can we assist in food related business growth? Pool of commission input. 15 min – Ms. Lindsley
- Minutes of meetings – Getting them out quickly is more important than discussion details -- Feik will email a document about minute writing.
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**15. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 8:00 p.m.

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

Approved by the Forest Grove Sustainability Commission:

Date: February 22, 2018