

# APPROVED



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**CITY OF FOREST GROVE  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
COMMUNITY AUDITORIUM  
THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2018 – 6:00 P.M.**

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Dale Feik, Chair	Council Liaison, Elena Uhing	Amber Nieves, Vice Chair
Brian Schimmel		Jacob Rose
Tabitha Merten		Deke Gundersen
Robin Lindsley		Tammy Banek-Rydman
Hope Kramer		Kenneth Cobleigh
Fallon Harris		L. Kate Grandusky

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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.

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**CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chair Nieves called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.**

**Sustainability Commission Present:**

Amber Nieves	Robin Lindsley	Fallon Harris
Brian Schimmel	Tammy Banek-Rydman	Deke Gundersen

**Council Present:**

Elena Uhing

**Staff Present:**

Brandi Walstead Keelan, Program Coordinator  
Tom Gamble, Parks and Recreation Director

**Guests:**

Devon Downeysmith  
Victoria Lowe

**1. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS:**

Ms. Devon Downeysmith provided an update to the commission on the first meeting of the Latino Summit series. There was a proportionate representation of personnel present. Those present were requested to meet for coffee with another individual from the meeting. The next steps include emails to show appreciation for their participation, along with a Doodle poll for next meeting dates. The email will also request response of what they learned and how coffee went. Ms. Downeysmith commented that it was good to see people together in heart time.

Ms. Victoria Lowe raised the issue of traffic accidents at Hwy 47/Maple St. Ms. Lowe stated that no one else should have to die at the intersection before a traffic solution is implemented. Ms. Lindsley recommended that Ms. Lowe speak to PSAC and to the News Times.

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Councilor Uhing will speak to the Council Liaison for PSAC; she further stated that an editorial would be beneficial so that is more than just City Council and Victoria Lowe speaking of the concern.

## 2. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Ms. Nieves moved to accept the minutes, Ms. Harris seconded. Discussion: None. Motion passed unanimously. (Later in the meeting, Ms. Keelan noted that due to the recent appointment, there is not a quorum present, acceptance of minutes will be held over to the June meeting).**

## 3. **ADDITIONS/DELETIONS:** None

## 4. **COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT:**

Councilor Uhing provided a report of City Council –

- May 30<sup>th</sup> there will be a Tri-Met listening session; this will cover Tri-Met and traffic issues.
- The Westside Economic Commission will be hosting a meeting at Washington Square; this is a good time to voice sustainability issues.
- The Coalition for Communities of Color has completed its study and around June/July will present the final report. This is a good connection to the commission's equity piece.
- Comment period is over for the commercial food waste proposal, the proposal will move forward with any changes made from comment to Metro.
- On May 29<sup>th</sup> there will be a joint session between Planning and City Council in regards to density in residential areas.
- The Senior Center, as previously discussed had been awarded a Community Block Grant in the amount of \$365,000. The bid came in above that. They have now received a grant from Washington County in the amount of \$100,000. The city will cover the remainder of the amount.
- The permitted cannabis grow has received temporary certification of occupancy, it is now pending review of taxation. Councilor Uhing went on to ask the commission members if they have seen any offensive signage or smelled offensive odors, she received no affirmative responses and requested that if either of those occurs that members notify her. City Council and staff put in a lot of work to ensure that it would be a positive environment for the community.
- Final touches are being done for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Aquatic Center, which will take place on June 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.
- Currently seismic study occurring, a lot of work around Hagg Lake Dam to ensure water is protected.

## 5. **STAFF REPORT:**

Ms. Keelan provided the staff report -

- The school board selected Kate Grandusky as their representative for the Sustainability Commission, she was appointed by City Council on May 21<sup>st</sup>. This leaves only the high school student advisory position. Ms. Fallon asked what the recruiting process is; Ms. Keelan explained that with the last opening she reached out to the science club with no responses.

Any member of the commission can make recommendations or recruit, just have the individual fill out an application and submit to Anna Ruggles.

- There was discussion around the CEP grant for the pilot bike share program; Ms. Keelan will place the topic on the agenda in June for vote on whether to request an extension. Ms. Keelan further updated the commission on the status of dockless bike share for the region.

## **6. WEED & PEST CONTROL IN FOREST GROVE: Tom Gamble, Parks & Rec Director**

Mr. Gamble provided an overview of the Parks pest management practices. Practices have been in place for about 25 years, which are in line with Oregon State Law for governmental property. There is an integrated pest management program that is very specific with rules and regulations for invasive management. These pertain to any government property to include parks, school properties, and other city properties. These rules state what can be used on these properties, such as chemicals. When they speak of “pest management” they are speaking more of plant based invasive species, not animal or bug pests. All pesticide/herbicide applicators are certified and conduct annual training.

Outside of applied herbicides, the city utilized goats last year and will do so again this year in the Forest Glen area. They hope to get 12 acres covered this year, which is a \$6,000 cost and is an average of 200 goats. The goats enjoy English Ivy and blackberry bushes. When they chew them down, the Parks staff then spot spray as needed. Further, they never do mass spraying, only spot spraying. They do encourage regrowth of native species plants, since they grow back there is no need to replant.

Ms. Lindsley asked about what is being sprayed near the community garden. Mr. Gamble explained that the community garden is near the substation so any spraying is done by Light & Power. Ms. Keelan will check with Light & Power. There was discussion about the animals that are drawn to the community garden and the hazard of those animals getting into the substation and knocking out power.

Ms. Fallon asked whether any neonegatanoids are used, Mr. Gamble stated they are not since they do not spray for any living thing. Ms. Nieves discussed that the main concern was the glyphosate in Roundup or other weed killers. The concern being that it will get in water and food sources. Mr. Gamble stated that they do not spray the Cornerstone near water sources. In relation to the community garden, the idea of moving it to a better suited area is being explored due to the two significant outages this year. Ms. Lindsley brought up the area by Filbert Substation and how she thought it would be a good area for a community garden, but pointed out that if there is an issue at the current location.

There was a discussion of organic herbicides; Mr. Gundersen stated that there is a brand new product called Weedslayer that he is current trying. He stated he would not throw a lot of money at it but it could be something to look at. Mr. Gamble discussed the conversations he had leading up to this meeting of the cost and need to reapply organic materials. Ms. Nieves commented that the best method is allowing natives to grow.

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

Ms. Harris stated that they are waiting for Mr. Rose to return. A question of the topics was discussed, with Gut Biome being a popular choice. It was discussed that possible next topics previously were decided on; Ms. Keelan will look at previous meeting minutes for discussion/decision.

*Per December 2017 minutes: The Commission discussed projecting upcoming dates and speakers for future Knowledge Pubs. The top three topics were The Soil Will Save Us; Farmers & Pesticides; Human Health with a Microbiologist. (Note: The Soil Will Save Us and Human Health were voted on, the third topic tabled)*

Mr. Gundersen pointed out that the mini-grant funds are done; a new application would need to be written. The next grant cycle begins in July.

## **8. CURRENT PROJECT PLANNING: TOPICAL ARTICLES**

May article was written by Mr. Schimmel and the topic was homelessness; Ms. Keelan forwarded the article to the group. Ms. Lindsley discussed the presentation that he did at a recent Chamber Luncheon; she pressed the importance of having him speak within other venues. Councilor Uhing stated that he should be encouraged to give the presentation to the other commissions and will bring this up to the other liaisons.

The June article will be written by Ms. Harris, Mr. Gundersen will write for July, Ms. Merten for August.

## **9. CURRENT PROJECT PLANNING: CLEAN AIR AND WATER QUALITY STANDARDS**

The group was not able to meet. Ms. Nieves asked Councilor Uhing for the timeline for posting of Table of Special Ordinances. Councilor Uhing would like to receive information stating what the group would like to accomplish, what is the end result and how does it pertain to the current work plan.

Ms. Keelan noted that there was email communication with the City Recorder in regards to the Table of Special Ordinances, which has not been created yet. The group reviewed the list of Code of Ordinances; there are no city code's that pertain to clean air and water, these are determined by the state or by Clean Water Services. This topic was tabled until August.

## **10. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS:**

Ms. Keelan passed information on for Mr. Schimmel that the Commission was awarded funding for mini-grants.

Ms. Merten: June 23<sup>rd</sup> there will be an event called PlanetCon- this event accepts items such as Styrofoam, polystyrene. She will send out the details.

Ms. Harris asked if the Commission had ever applied for a grant outside of the CEP grants.

They have not, although it is encouraged. She further asked about reports for the mini-grants, Ms. Keelan explained that they are posted each year at the end of the grant cycle on the City Website under the Sustainability Commission page.

**11. FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS:**

- Co-Op housing- Ms. Merten; Ms. Keelan will reach out to Green Grove to see if they are available to attend as well (June)
- 2017-2018 CEP Grant final report, Mr. Schimmel
- Michelle Larkin (invite to speak on videos, recycling and food on campus)
- Green Energy Jobs (future – Devon)

**12. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brandi Walstead Keelan, Program Coordinator  
City of Forest Grove

Approved by the Forest Grove Sustainability Commission:

Date: 6/28/18