

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

Councilor Victoria Lowe

Brian Schimmel, Chair
Deke Gundersen
Hope Kramer
Robin Lindsley
Elaine Cole
Leslie Applegate Lanzar

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

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CALL TO ORDER:

Sustainability Commission Present: Chair Brian Schimmel, Robin Lindsley, Edgar Fausto, John Hayes, Leslie Applegate Lanzar, Elaine Cole, Mitch Taylor, Deke Gundersen, Jacob Rose, Hope Kramer

Excused Absence: Dale Feik

Absent:

Council Present: Councilor Victoria Lowe

Staff Present: Jon Holan, Community Development Director, Brandi Walstead, Program Coordinator

Guests: Cherie-Savoie Tintary, Fallon Harris, William Baneck, Juan Gonzales, Zack Hewson, Abby VanderZanden

1. REGULAR MEETING: Chair Schimmel called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS: Chair Schimmel, Ms. Tintary is here tonight to comment on her concerns over backyard burning, I would like to start a movement to Ban the Burn. Chair Schimmel commented on the City's efforts a couple of years ago to limit backyard burning to a couple of days in the spring. In the interim, the City was to develop a proposal for disposing yard debris by other means than burning. Commissioner Taylor mentioned making backyard burning a future 2016 Focus topic for discussion.

Mr. Hewson and Ms. VanderZanden, Pacific University students, introduced themselves to the Commission. We are here tonight to hear from the Commission of their efforts to address

affordable housing and homelessness. Chair Schimmel, mentioned that affordable housing is a topic area in the Plan under social equity. The students are here tonight as part of a class assignment. Commission members mentioned various contacts for further information regarding homelessness and affordable housing for the students. Councilor Lowe mentioned that the Council is currently discussing these issues and made mention for the students to interview Council members to hear their opinions on this topic as well. The students are about at the end of their semester. Commissioner Rose, asked if there was earlier testimony concerning the Tokola property, was there opportunities to comment on the property use for affordable housing.

CONSENT AGENDA: Chair Schimmel ask for amendments or additions to the minutes of the March 31 meeting. Commissioners Kramer edited her comments to read, Commissioner Kramer says, I feel we are supposed to take on the issues the Mayor or Council are concerned with. We want to review things being put before the Council. Chair Schimmel approve the minutes as edited by Commissioner's Kramer and Cole.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: Councilor Lowe, I'm here for only a few minutes tonight. There's an emergency Council meeting tonight to discuss more of the details for implementing the marijuana laws. We are not flip-flopping as the local newspaper indicated. We are developing the ways and means for moving forward with the process. The City has voted to be "in" and not "out". By being "in" the City can receive the tax benefit for the sale of marijuana.

The Council will be discussing a motion for a temporary pause for fact finding the regulations of growing and processing of marijuana. At the next meeting, I will update the Commission on water issues being discussed by the Oregon state legislature.

STAFF UPDATE: Mr. Holan, the food composting plan has been discussed twice by the Council. Mr. Downey made the presentation to the Council on April 11. I was ill and not available for that meeting. The Council decided to wait until their second May meeting to allow Waste Management to make their proposal for their overall rate hike before further composting plan discussions. Councilor Lowe asked Mr. Holan if he had copy of a letter the Mayor wrote to Metro concerning the solid waste stream in the county. Mr. Holan was not aware of the letter. Councilor Lowe asked Mr. Holan upon receipt of a copy to forward it to the Commission.

Mr. Holan, the plastic bag ban ordinance will be heard on May 23. Ms. Walstead and I will be making a presentation to the Council prior to the hearing. Public comment will be taken at the public hearing, this will be the first reading of the ordinance. Commissioner Kramer, Commissioner Hayes and I are on the EDC. A presentation was made to the EDC by staff regarding the proposed ordinance. The EDC voted 6 to 3 of not being in agreement with the current wording. The EDC is not in favor of the .05 cent charge and preferred the old wording in the ordinance. Not a single person expressed their opposition to the proposed ban, the EDC's concern is over the nickel charge. Group discussion followed on changing the wording or moving forward. Chair Schimmel is there an action for us moving forward or we wait and see what the Council does. Councilor Lowe suggested a joint or co-recommendation with EDC. Ms. Walstead, I spoke with the City of Corvallis recently and they mentioned that the five cent charge was instrumental in changing the public perception for plastic bags and the public's use of reusable bags. Corvallis mentioned that the Winco store used over 5,000 less bags in the first

month after their ordinance was passed. Commissioner Hayes, we want to remind the Council that there are two groups involved with economic development and that the Chamber of Commerce was not opposed to the proposed ordinance. Mr. Holan, I will attach all the information, letters and comments the Commission collected and make them available for the Council.

Mr. Holan, my department will be working with code modifications, land use activities, forestry plan, transportation and affordable housing issues. At this time Councilor Lowe and Mr. Holan left the meeting to attend the Council meeting.

2. PRESENTATIONS:

Chair Schimmel, Terri O'Day is here tonight to give us an update on the CALC sustainable design course, leadership through design. Ms. O'Day introduced Mr. Harris, Mr. Gonzales and Mr. Baneck. Each student made a presentation (see handout) on their class projects. We are not from the high school. This program provides us opportunities to help other people, it matters to me, this program is a good thing to help us become successful. Projects involved changing student behavior for sustainable activities including; eating nutritional foods, developing hydroponic systems for fish rearing for helping grow healthy sustainable foods, exercise for kids for overall health. We need to develop a larger activity space for students. Active kids do better in life. We have identified a potential property for this facility but are having trouble locating the owner. Ms. Walstead is familiar with the property and will provide a contact for the students.

Chair Schimmel, the \$500 mini grant provided seed money to start the CALC sustainable design course.

3. TOPIC AREA SUBCOMMITTEES:

Farmers Market: Commissioner Cole, I was asked by Ms. Warner for volunteers to staff the waste center station at the Market. Commissioner Cole passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers to staff the station for one hour time slots.

Sustainability Series: Last Tuesday I presented the Action Plan at the library to about ten folks. I wanted to find out what the attendees interest were, and who might want to serve on our subcommittees. Colleen Winters, library director, mentioned they wanted to partner with us for future programs.

Climate Letter: Commissioner Gundersen, these are critical issues I want the Council to move on, in my opinion these are life threatening things. I want to see some action on what we can do here. We can't wait to take action until the next meeting.

Chair Schimmel asked of Commissioner Gundersen if the plan is to button up language and have ready for review and vote next month. Commissioner Gundersen stated he would not be available at the next meeting. Commissioner Kramer asked if it has to wait, can the process be done through email? Chair Schimmel stated that is not acceptable. Commissioner Hayes stated that the paper may be approved to be

sent to Council and the newspaper with minor edits to be reviewed through email correspondence. Chair Schimmel clarified that the intent for next steps are to make changes to the paper and send it to Council and the newspaper, asked about the timeline. Commissioner Schimmel stated he would like to have distribution to both City Council and the newspaper done prior to him leaving. Chair Schimmel requested that Commissioner Hayes restate the motion.

Commissioner Hayes: motion to approve distribution of Commissioner Gundersen paper to City Council and other venues with minor edits that people on the Commission want to have included, with those changes to follow through email.

Seconded by Commissioner Fausto.

Discussion: Commissioner Gundersen requested comments be sent to him via email.

Approve say yea: all Oppose: none – motion passed.

Follow up discussion: Commissioner Gundersen stated he would make sure everyone receives the final version and with agreement from other members will ensure it gets to the appropriate staff members (Jon and Brandi) for distribution to City Council and that he will check with a couple of contacts at the local paper for publishing.

Commissioner Fausto, I would like to take this action up to the high school.

2016 Focus: Commissioner Taylor wanted to take this time for discussion on what we as members should be focusing on in 2016, should we be reviewing our Action Plan.

Commissioner Taylor, asked, what are our priorities. We should be focusing on identifying the priorities for 2016.

Ms. Walstead, the bi-laws require the Commission to report annually on their activities and priorities to the Council. I need to know what the Commission wants to focus on to start work on the priorities and the white papers. General discussion followed on reviewing the Plan. Members are anxious to move on items like the letter we just passed. White papers are needed to review the cost and impacts of implementing the Plan.

Chair Schimmel, the intent here is to identify the areas we want to continue work on.

Commissioner Cole, at a previous meetings we discussed having individual members take the lead on topic area discussion. Further discussion centered on what topic areas we want to take on including the back yard burn ban, climate issues, and the use of ad hoc committees to help move on these topics.

Chair Schimmel, there appears to be a consensus to take on the backyard burn ban.

Commissioner Hayes, there has been lots of public testimony in the past, there are lots of solutions to move forward with. Ms. Walstead outlined the process for moving forward with a total burn ban proposal. Commissioner Taylor, we need people to help with sustainability issues.

Commissioner Taylor, let's take a look at the 2014 Topic Areas, and each member take on a Topic to focus on. We need to recruit help to work on implementing the Plan.

4. TOPIC AREA UPDATES: None at this time.

5. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS: None at this time.

6. Future Agenda Items: Next month's agenda items include; Action Item presentations, discussion and vote on processing mini grants, identify potential candidates for the Council election.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted
George Cress, Director
Light & Power