

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

THURSDAY, February 25, 2016 – 6:00 P.M.

Councilor Victoria Lowe

Brian Schimmel, Chair
Deke Gundersen
Hope Kramer
Robin Lindsley
Elaine Cole
Diane Taniguchi-Dennis
Jacob Rose

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

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CALL TO ORDER:

Sustainability Commission Present: Chair Brian Schimmel, Robin Lindsley, Edgar Fausto, Karin Pfeiffer-Hoyt, John Hayes, Leslie Applegate Lanzar, Dale Feik, Elaine Cole, Mitch Taylor, Dale Feik

Excused Absence: Diane Taniguchi-Dennis,

Absent: Leslie Applegate Lanzar, Jacob Rose

Council Present: Councilor Victoria Lowe

Staff Present: Paul Downey, Administrative Services Director, George Cress, Director of L&P, Brandi Walstead, Program Coordinator

Guests: Billy Goldsmith, Cecelia Warner

1. REGULAR MEETING: Call to order, Vice Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS: Vice Chair Taylor wanted to take this time to take nominations for the position of Chair. Nominations were called for. Vice Chair Taylor made a motion to nominate Commissioner Schimmel as the 2016 Chairman, Commissioner Cole seconded the motion. A vote was taken with a unanimous decision made by those members present for electing Commissioner Schimmel as the next Chair.

CONSENT AGENDA: Minutes for the January 28, 2016 will be reviewed at the next meeting.

3. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: Councilor Lowe, I want to mention the March 8, showing of the movie Behind the Emerald Curtain which focuses on climate change. There is stress on our forests and water resources from the growing population in Oregon. The City is going in the right direction and has a good forest plan that addresses these issues. I'm concerned about forest practices in other areas of the Pacific Northwest. Commissioner Gundersen, the horrifying thing is the aerial spraying and the lack of buffer areas from the watershed. Chair Schimmel, if there is a concern in this area we can schedule time for a future meeting for additional discussion. We also had a Council retreat and I will share the results at a later time.

4. STAFF UPDATE: Mr. Holan was not in attendance for this meeting. Mr. Downey provided an update on the compost waste proposal. Recently, staff met with Washington County Solid Waste to discuss kicking-off the program for May 1, 2016. In addition, they will be attending the Commission's next meeting in March to report on the status of the program and to discuss 60 to do items. We are still waiting to hear back from DEQ on the grant proposal for funding the waste disposal kitchen pails. Bev will be mailing out a post card to approximately 5000 single family residential customers who will be impacted by the new composting program. We would normally send out the information about the program in the utility bill. The City is not going to do that because the billing would reach multi-family customers who are not part of this program. Additional mailings will be going out in June. Washington County has budgeted funds to pay for the educational materials that will be sent out.

Councilor Lowe asked Mr. Downey if someone will be monitoring the tonnage that will be diverted from the landfill. Mr. Downey, Waste Management will monitor the program and provide us with a report. Chair Schimmel asked Mr. Downey, did the council vote on the waste proposal. Council made a motion to move forward with the plan and to provide information for folks at the Wednesday Farmers Market. They have not voted on a rate for this service. Councilor Lowe, will Nature's Needs be offering 1 yard of composting materials to our customers each year or just for the first year of the program. Mr. Downey it is my understanding that compost materials we be offered each year. We will also be asking Metro for an out of jurisdiction permit to enable Waste Management to take the waste materials to North Plains which is not in Metro's jurisdiction.

The first day for Wednesday Farmer's Market is May 4. Ms. Warner offered to provide Master Recycler's booth space for displaying the composting program's educational marketing materials.

Mr. Downey, the CEP Cycle Committee has approved the rules for the forth coming year. There are two changes for the new cycle; increase the amount of funding for each grant up to \$10,000 and placed a limit on the number of applications a board or commission can submit for funding. Metro revised the rules. Commissioner Cole, does this limit our scope for our Commission. The not-for-profit organizations still have the ability to apply for grant funding too. Councilor

Lowe, how does the Committee feel about the mini-grant applications, do they still support them. Commissioner Taylor asked Mr. Downey, has the Committee seen mini-grant proposals they would not support. Mr. Downey, the Committee is concerned about allocating the grant funds equally. Chair Schimmel, I'm concerned about not having enough funds to meet the needs. Commissioner Lowe, the grant funds are to be use for projects that offset the waste flow that currently goes to the transfer station, they are not a gift to the boards and commissions. The grant funds are used to mitigate the overall waste flow that impacts the waste transfer station. The original program has changed over the years. Mr. Downey, Ms. Harrington is a member of the Metro Committee that oversees the program, so there is close observance of the grant applications. Mr. Downey, the Commission needs to prioritize their applications, do not forget, there is also a pool for not-for-profit organizations. Chair Schimmel, we will need to coach prospective applicants on their grant submittals.

PRESENTATIONS

5. FGSC Sustainability Initiatives: Billy Goldsmith, FGSD facilities director, Llenc Clute, FGSD business manager presented their organization Traffic Light Report, (see handout). Mr. Goldsmith, the Traffic Light Report details the districts efforts for environmental and energy management planning and implementation for school district properties. In addition, the Report outlines future goals and objectives for controlling costs and implementing new programs. We also compare schools and see how their doing in controlling spending on utilities. Waste management is another area that is a concern for us, we are implementing recycling programs to control costs with our waste stream. We monitor the food we purchase and what food-waste goes to the landfill. We would like to purchase more local food. We have to be diligent on the food products we buy for our student meals; we have to carry liability insurance to cover us for potential illness. For the future we want to implement more sustainable efforts, we want to cut down on our use of plastic bags and the amount of white paper we use.

Vice-Chair Taylor, I'm impressed with your efforts you're undertaking, especially with your environmental controls for the school buildings. Commissioner Hope, in reading the waste audit report report I was surprised to hear the district is still using styrofoam and plastic eating utensils instead of reusable trays and flat ware. Mr. Goldsmith, I'm not the expert on this issue, it's my understanding that it is for economic reasons that we still use disposable items. Commissioner Cole, do you see any future initiative of composting efforts. Mr. Goldsmith, yes we would like to take a look at this to see if this viable. Commissioner, Fausto, we would like to place the waste audit information on the school webpage.

6. Mini-Grant: - Recyclable Produce Bags: One Less Plastic Bag Proposal (see grant application handout) - reusable Chico bags for the Farmers Market Waste Center (CEP mini-grant). Ms. Warner, I'm a big a fan of Chico bags, they are a self-contained recyclable product. The manufacturer requires the minimum purchase of 200 bags, also I thought it would be nice to have the logo placed on the bags, One Less Plastic Bag. I'm asking for \$800 to purchase 500 bags including printing, there is a 9 week lead time. Vice Chair Taylor, are you going to charge \$3 for the bags, and if you do, what are you going to do with the money. I'm going to purchase more bags. Commissioner Kramer, how many bags can you buy for \$500 without the logo. Ms. Warner, I can buy 231 bags. General discussion followed on whether to support having a logo on the bag or not and the issue of needing to sell the bag instead of gifting them. Ms. Warner, I want

people to value the bag. Chair Schimmel, do you want to amend the application to delete the aspect of selling the bags for \$3. I want to keep the application as is.

Commissioner Cole made a motion to accept the CEP mini-grant, second by Commissioner Pfeiffer-Hoyt. Vote taken, motion passed. Logo agreed upon, City of Forest Grove, Sustainability is in the Bag, 2 lines.

7. Sustainability Public Education Series: co-sponsor and deliver presentations. Ms. Warner, I want to remind members about the series of sustainability topic discussions to be presented on the last Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM at the library. Last Tuesday, we had a good turnout for Eat Smart. Members mentioned possible topics including composting and even the UCC project proposal for raised garden beds.

8. Mini-Grant - UCC Church: Welcome Garden- community gardens accessible to wheelchairs and walkers (CEP mini-grant) presented by Mr. Paul Edwards, from Forest Grove United Church of Christ. Mr. Edwards, the application (see handouts) is for \$500 to construct four garden boxes to be located in front of the church bordering Main Street. This project is designed to accommodate folks in wheelchairs and walkers. The public will be invited to participate in planting, care and harvest the food grown in the vegetable garden. The Welcome Garden is meant for public use not just for church members. Water for the gardens will be provided by the church.

Commissioner Hayes made a motion to accept the application, second by Commissioner Cole. Motion passed. Members expressed their strong support for this mini-grant application, they felt it was a great project. Commissioner Lindsley, I would like to volunteer to help with this project and to share our experiences at the Senior Center.

TOPIC AREA SUBCOMMITTEES

9. CEP Grants: Commissioner Kramer, I'm asking Melanie for help spending grant money for projects at the schools. I talked with Edgar and (name) about composting at the high school. I think this could be a good club project at the high school. We need to have more recycling containers at the school too. I also wanted to mention the recent Waste Audit that was done. One of the items that stood out was the amount of clothes that are left on school grounds and just thrown away; there is no Lost & Found at the high school. There are recoverable items including food that are currently thrown away in large garbage bags. There are many garbage cans located on the high school campus that leads to throwing away items that could be recycled.

Councilor Lowe suggested having the Council hold one of its meetings at the high school to help emphasize the activities of the various boards and commissions.

Chair Schimmel, I wanted to talk about ideas for future mini-grants. There is going to be a cap of \$10,000. Commissioner Lindsley I would like to apply for a future mini-grant for exploring

the milling of local ground grains for bread. I would like funds to research the development of a local mill. Discussion continued on potential projects for the next round; social justice ideas, more school gardens, and mini houses and how we allow for them zoning wise in this community. The next period begins March 1 and ends March 31. Chair Schimmel, I'll take the lead for mini-grants. Commissioner Kramer, I would suggest we hold an additional meeting to discuss possible projects. Chair Schimmel, I'll check into having a workshop on March 10 for developing applications.

10. Sustainable Schools Grant: no discussion

11. Topic Area Updates: no discussion

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS: no discussion

Future Agenda Items: Next month's agenda items include; presentations, defining the role of Ms. Walstead's staff support, Mayor's Support for Water Conservation. **Next meeting** will be held on March 31, 2016.

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

Respectfully Submitted
George Cress, Director
Light & Power