

**CITY OF FOREST GROVE
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
COMMUNITY AUDITORIUM
THURSDAY, June 23, 2016 – 6:00 P.M.**

Councilor Victoria Lowe

Brian Schimmel, Chair
Deke Gundersen
Hope Kramer
Robin Lindsley
Elaine Cole
Leslie Applegate Lanzar
Diane Taniguchi-Dennis

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, Hope Kramer

Excused Absence: Hope Kramer

Absent: Diane Taniguchi-Dennis,

Council Present: Councilor Victoria Lowe

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

Guests: Brad Reed, Melanie Estrada

1. REGULAR MEETING: Chair Schimmel called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS: Commissioner Cole provided cookies for members to show her gratitude for their support towards getting the plastic bag ban and composting ordinances passed. Congratulations all around.

Councilor Lowe asked if unclaimed composting materials could be donated to school gardening programs. Not all city residences are going to want or use their entitled composting materials. Commissioner Lanzar stated that Recology already donates to our schools. Commissioner Lanzar will check with Recology to see if they still donate the composting soil to schools. City residents who don't want the material can offer up their coupons for the material and give them to the schools.

Commissioner Fausto gave an award presentation to three Tom McCall student winners of the Student Challenge poster contest. Commissioner Lanzar, Recology from North Plains, will have the posters printed and will make them available for the schools this fall.

Commissioner Feik reported on the latest Intel clean water permitting issues with EPA and DEQ which requires stricter compliance for clean water standards. DEQ is the overseer of the permit and Clean Water Services implements the actual measures.

Mr. Brad Reed from the 350 Washington County group introduced himself to the Commission. I'm interested in carbon and climate issues and to see what the City has done in the area of pollution reduction measures.

CONSENT AGENDA: Chair Schimmel ask for amendments or additions to the minutes of the April 28, meeting. Minutes approved by concensus. May minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: Councilor Lowe provided an update on a recently held Water Consortium meeting. I've been a member of the Consortium almost from the beginning, their members consists of a good group of water providers. They discussed lead testing at the last meeting. I will be sending out an email from Clean Water Services showing their new marketing materials for Fernhill Wetlands. Councilor Lowe also handed out a request from CSW asking for volunteers for their on-site environmental education program at Fernhill. This is an opportunity for members to receive training and education concerning Fernhill.

STAFF UPDATE: Mr. Holan, I want to pick up on what Councilor Lowe mentioned about lead in the water. Mr. Foster has put together a preliminary report from the City's Engineering Department on their recent testing of 60 residences which was designed to provide base line data for lead content in the City's drinking water. Water will be tested in pipes leading to the house and not beyond the meter. Safety threshold is 15 parts per billion, Mr. Foster indicated they have found some lead in the water but it's far below the safety threshold. The initial tests will be conducted on a variety of housing types. A requirement of the test is that the water should not be running for a minimum of six hours. Mr. Foster also offered up free testing for homes that are concerned about lead. City buildings and schools will also be tested. A press release will be sent out indicating test results.

Mr. Holan, the City's rate increase for the composting program is July 1, 2016. The DEQ's kitchen pails should be available on July 18. Council took action approving the plastic bag ban. Council amended the ordinance which required a five cent fee for reusable bags. We are going to initiate an education element. The local Safeway is on board with this initiative. Ms. Walstead, Council will look at the results of the new ordinance in a year's time.

21 Youth Letter: Commissioner Feik made a request of the Commission to make a recommendation to Council, regarding securing the legal right to a healthy atmosphere and a stable climate for all present and future generations. I'm requesting Council pass a resolution in support for the 21 Youth Plaintiffs in their federal lawsuit (see handout). Commissioner Feik also made mention of Richard Kidd IV, Deputy assistant Secretary of the Army (Energy &

Sustainability) testifying on global water challenges (see links). Commissioner Feik discussed the case and the people who are in support.

Chair Schimmel, asked Councilor Lowe and Mr. Holan their opinion, is the proposed resolution in the proper format for the Council to consider adopting. Councilor Lowe, I need to ask the City Manager as to what the proper format should be. Mr. Holan recommended the Commission move forward and proceed to vote on supporting a resolution on this matter. Councilor Lowe, this is new ground and the City Manager should be involved.

Commissioner Feik, I want the Council to take a stand politically on this topic. Commissioner Feik made a motion for the Commission to prepare a cover letter in support of the attached resolution to be revised in a format to be considered for adoption by Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lindsley. Discussion on the topic followed. Commissioner Hayes, I feel the format needs to be changed to include the verbiage to therefore instead of whereas, remove the resolutions "Whereas". Commissioner Taylor, the proposed resolution is too long it needs to be reworded. Commissioners agreed to table the motion until the next meeting. Commissioner Hayes and other members will review and make recommended changes for the next meeting.

- 2. CEP 2015 – 16 Report:** Review grant reports from current cycle. Chair Schimmel, my immediate concern is the immediate deadline to get reports to Mr. Downey by the 30th. We've spent \$17,000 in grant funds to date; another \$2,900 is remaining in the school cafeteria project which we have an extension until this fall to complete. I will file a final report for the mini-grants to Mr. Downey. Final reports are to be filed with Ms. Walstead and Mr. Downey as well, Bev will not be accepting reports. Commissioner Pfeiffer-Hoyt, I will finalize the Latino Summit report by the 30th.

3. Annual Work Plan:

Topic Area Priorities: Chair Schimmel handed out the Commission's draft 2016-17 Work Plan (see handout). I stated the work plan goals and tactics. Commissioner Kramer stated her desire to have an additional meeting to hear the grant applications proposals. Chair Schimmel, I'm not in favor of having additional meetings, maybe we can hold a longer meeting instead of adding another meeting. We need to have subcommittees review the proposals before hand for discussion of the applications at a regular meeting. We have a lot of work to do in the meetings. General discussion followed as to the merits of adding another meeting. I've added Guiding Principals, and Topic Area Priorities for suggested initiatives for discussion as well. I would like to identify and determine roles of individual members as to their being a champion vs. an advisor. Commissioner Lindsley made a recommendation to amend the Farm to School and just make it School Gardens. I also propose adding a next phase "Neighborhood Gardens" to School Gardens. Commissioner Fausto agreed to champion the 'One Bag a Week' challenge. Commissioner Pfeiffer-Hoyt would like to discuss with her subcommittee her role for Latino Summit actions before declaring. I don't know if I can continue in my current role. Ms. Walstead forwarded the

comments by Chief Schutz asking for the report for the last Summit. Chief Schutz wants her department to follow up on some of the suggestions and comments made at the Summit.

Commissioner Gundersen to follow up on the Climate letter to Council. I feel the Mayor's letter was a luke warm response to the Commission's letter on Climate Change. I would like to see the Council move on Commission items a little quicker.

Commissioner Taylor will continue championing the Bike Plan. I will continue partnering with other groups for developing bike trails. I would like to start a bicycle advisory committee for the City which could act as subcommittee for the Commission. I will write up a proposal for you outlining my ideas moving forward.

Commissioner Hayes to follow up on the Backyard burn ban as requested by Cheri Savoie.

Commissioner Rose will be out of the country for study abroad. He asked if an alternate could attend the Commission meetings in his absence.

- **Commission Engagements:** no discussion
- **Mini-Grants:** Commissioner Lindsley will champion the investigation of Community scale solar development for a renewable energy source for the City. Commissioner Cole will investigate holding an event for non-curbside recyclables. Maybe we can piggyback an event with a Waste Management event.

Commissioner Fausto will work on Rose Grove mobile home park self-sustaining food system.

- **Media relations:** no discussion

5. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS: no discussion

Future Agenda Items: Next month's agenda items include; ready to adopt resolution in support of 21 Youth Plaintiffs Climate Change case, follow up on Work Plan outline.

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

Respectfully Submitted
George Cress, Director
Light & Power