

**CITY OF FOREST GROVE  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
COMMUNITY AUDITORIUM  
THURSDAY, May 26, 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:** Jacob Rose, Deke Gundersen, Mitch Taylor, Karin Pfeiffer-Hoyt

**Absent:** Diane Taniguchi-Dennis,

**Council Present:** Councilor Victoria Lowe

**Staff Present:** Jon Holan, Community Development Director, Brandi Walstead, Program Coordinator, George Cress, Director Light & Power

**Guests:** Grace Cho

**1. REGULAR MEETING:** Chair Schimmel called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**Sustainability Homestead:** Chair Schimmel thanked the folks from Nana Cardoon Urban Farm for their hospitality shown to the Commission during this evening's visitation and tour. The food was delicious the company was nice.

**Solar Oven Demo:** Students from Harvey Clark Elementary school demonstrated their cooking skills using solar ovens. Equipment used in their demonstration was funded by a CEP grant from the Commission.

**Food Waste Audit:** Commissioner Cole facilitated a presentation provided by Echo Shaw Elementary School students. A group of students from Ms. Smith and Ms. King third grade class presented their findings from their recent lunch room waste audit. (See handout and report). Mr. Kim, a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student, presented additional findings from a waste audit conducted at his school. He suggested using reusable trays and silverware instead of using Styrofoam cups and throw away plastic forks and knives. Throw away items are bad for the environment. Over a 143 lbs. of garbage from the lunch room could have been recycled or reused.

Commissioner Kramer, I brought to their attention the use and waste of plastic plates. This is an unnecessary waste and an expense for the schools; they should be using reusable plates and silverware.

Chair Schimmel thanked the teachers and students for their presentation. As a reminder, Chair Schimmel mentioned the availability of CEP grant funds for cafeteria food waste composting.

**One Bag a Week:** Commissioner Lanzar handed out posters from the Tom McCall student Challenge for member viewing. Recology from North Plains will pay for printing the posters. Other student posters will be laminated. The sustainability message for this contest was to reduce, recycle and reuse.

Commissioner's Fausto and Lanzar presented a slide presentation on the results from the contest. Pre and post implementation by students and their families for recycling and composting for one week were addressed. Commissioner Fausto, I wanted to know what the students were thinking and what actions they were taking in reducing their waste stream. There were six households that participated. Commissioner Fausto, we found that the most common household waste items were food waste, bottles, and paper items. The most common practice for household's pre implementation was "out of sight out of mind". For more details and results see presentation. After implementation we found household's reduced their waste on average three bags per week. Commissioner Fausto, the intent of the poster contest was to raise student awareness for disposing of waste and recycling.

**2. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS:** none presented at this time

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Chair Schimmel ask for amendments or additions to the minutes of the April 28, meeting. April's minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting.

**COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT:** Councilor Lowe, both the Mayor's letter and Commission's letter's will be presented at tomorrow's League of Oregon's City's (LOC) meeting. The LOC is gathering a list of policy recommendations from Oregon cities. The recommendations will be voted on by LOC members for prioritization to be used as its policy blank for interaction with the legislature. I also visited a grade school student demonstration on hydroponic gardening. The student teacher advising the class was Kate Grandiski. Chair Schimmel asked for contact information to be able to offer grant assistance for future projects. Commissioner Lindsley offered to help run down a contact for the class.

**STAFF UPDATE:** Mr. Holan, the food composting plan has been discussed twice now by Council. Mr. Downey presented a staff report for both the food and garden composting proposal as well as a general rate hike for waste pickup proposed by Waste Management. Council has schedule two public hearings for June 13 for both proposals.

Chair Schimmel asked for volunteers to appear at the June Council meeting. Mr. Holan, the second reading of the plastic bag ordinance will also be read at this meeting. The public hearing is still open so additional testimony can be presented. Action will be taken by Council, if the ordinance is passed it will be implemented July 1, 2016. The MSTIP3e refers to a Washington County tax used for county-wide projects. The County is looking to program projects for the next five years. There are two projects in our area; Martin Road bridge improvements and intersection improvements for Hwy 47 and Fernhill.

Mr. Holan, other items of interest include, Parks & Rec Master Plan Update and the West Side Planning Area which includes parts of David Hill Road and Purdin Road. The City's website has more information on these planning topics.

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.

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

**Transportation Equity:** Grace Cho, Project Manager from Metro presented an update on Metro's transportation equity analysis (see handouts) for the region's twenty year transportation plan. This analysis will evaluate social equity outcomes of proposed short- and long-term transportation investments for five regional populations:

- People of color
- People with low income
- People with limited English proficiency
- Older adults and youth

Ms. Cho, the equity analysis can help us learn how our investments affect communities and to develop and evaluate priorities for investments. We are holding focus groups and making presentations to groups like this to gather input on transportation challenges. There are a lot of transportation needs and not enough financial resources to cover the needs. The purpose of a transportation equity analysis is to measure the social equity implications of near and short term investments and policies. This is a three year process, Metro's equity update analysis will be completed and adopted in 2018. Ms. Cho asked how do I keep the community involved with this process. Chair Schimmel offered to be the contact for Ms. Cho. Chair Schimmel, we've recently held a Latino Summit, transportation safety concerns were a major item of concern. Commissioner Fausto, there is a bus stop on the east side of town there is cross walk in the area to access the stop. In some areas we don't have enough transportation infrastructure for safety. Bus line 57 has limitations for community bus service here as well. Commissioner Cole, pedestrian bike, does the Plan expedite the bike trail system. Commissioner Fausto, for

communication the Latino community needs more transportation maps that are translated into Spanish, especially when and where to get off the bus. Easy to get lost for non-English speaking peoples who ride the bus. Member's expressed their willingness to provide further participation and thanked Ms. Cho for her presentation.

## **TOPIC AREA SUBCOMMITTEES:**

### **3. Annual Work Plan: discussion on topic area priorities for 2016.**

**Commission Engagements:** Commissioner Lanzar introduced the idea of having a one day sustainability symposium (see handout) based roughly on an aerospace symposium, like a tent talk for adults could be an annual event to be held at Pacific U. Members expressed their desire to talk more about this at a later date. Chair Schimmel, this may be an event that we can help support with mini-grant funds.

Commissioner Kramer, we still have some projects with the school district we're working on involving recycling opportunities and placing more recycling bins for various schools. In addition, we asked Mr. Downey for a six month extension until December to spend funds for composting at the schools. We're looking at using a 55 gallon barrel to place kitchen scraps from the schools into for use as a composting bin. Cell One Farms has this type of barrel ready for composting. We're going to ask for quotes for the barrels so we can proceed with the project. I think we have \$3,500 remaining for this project. We want show the school district they can save money or at least break even by using composting for their food waste materials.

Mr. Holan, Commissioner Fausto's One Bag A Week Challenge project raised the awareness of students for recycling and sustainability. The Commission should continue in this area. Commissioner Kramer announced to the Commission the Council's award of \$7,000 for the School's Nutrition program.

Commissioner Cole, we've done a lot concerning the Materials Management Plan. Goal 1 (C), Do a one bag a week challenge for residence, I think we can do more with this topic after our success with the school's pilot program. Goal 3, keep sending educational materials on hard recycling and sustainability through the City's utility bills. I'll follow up with Dean from Far West Recycling and Pacific University for civic engagement.

Councilor Lowe, do we have the ability to send out insert information in Spanish through the utility bills. Mr. Holan, yes we can send out utility bill inserts in Spanish.

Chair Schimmel, we had a guest at the last meeting who brought up the issue of backyard burning, do we want to follow up on this issue and make recommendations to the Council. We should formalize what we've discussed tonight. Members to email recommendations on tonight's discussion to Chair Schimmel.

**Mini-Grants:** Chair Schimmel, the question has come up on how we administer mini-grants. We will work on a procedure for administering grants. I will also follow up with a report on the mini grants for presentation to the Council.

**COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS:** Commission Feik, I request the Commission support the action of the “21 Youth” who are bringing suit against the federal government regarding air emissions. I will write up a proposal for consideration at the next meeting. Commissioner Lindsley, I would like to follow up on Commissioner Gundersen’s recent letter regarding environmental issues especially food and how it impacts us locally. Commissioner Fausto announced he received a letter from Grove Mobile Home Park announcing their desire for a community garden.

**Future Agenda Items:** Next month’s agenda items include; potential mini-grant projects, back yard burning and Focus 2016.

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

Respectfully Submitted  
George Cress, Director  
Light & Power