

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

THURSDAY, September 22, 2016 – 6:00 P.M.

Councilor Victoria Lowe

Brian Schimmel, Chair
Deke Gundersen
Hope Kramer
Robin Lindsley
Elaine Cole
Jacob Rose

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

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CALL TO ORDER:

Sustainability Commission Present: Chair Brian Schimmel, Vice Chair Mitch Taylor, Robin Lindsley, Edgar Fausto, Elaine Cole, Mitch Taylor, Deke Gundersen, Dale Feik, John Hayes, Hope Kramer, Karin Pfeiffer-Hoyt

Excused Absence: Jacob Rose

Absent:

Council Present: Councilor Victoria Lowe, Mayor Truax

Staff Present: Jon Holan, Community Development Director, George Cress, Director Light & Power, Rob Foster, Director Engineering/Public Works, Paul Downey, Director Administrative Services

Guests: Melanie Estrada, Lyle Spiesschart, Tom Egleston, Tim Rippe, Kayleigh DeBruyne, Pacific U. alternate, Nick Levesque

Introductions: Chair Schimmel introduced Ms. De Bruyne a third year student at Pacific. Pacific U. Project Pipeline, Center for a Sustainable Society.

1. REGULAR MEETING: Chair Schimmel called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS: no communications

2. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Chair Schimmel asked for amendments or additions to the minutes of the August 25 meeting. Minutes approved by consensus with minor edits.
3. **ADDITIONS/DELETIONS:** none presented
4. **PLUS/DELTA:** no additions or deletions
5. **COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT:** Councilor Lowe, Mr. Foster and I attended a recent meeting of the River Watchers in Salem. Several environmental groups like Ducks Unlimited and angler groups attended the work group meeting. Topics included ground water issues, monitoring and allocation of waters around the state.

Commissioner Feik added to the discussion regarding the overuse of aquifers as being a major issue. This is an urgent issue around the state.

6. **STAFF REPORT:** Mr. Holan, a Council work session was held earlier this month on affordable housing. An action item came from the Council to create both a citizen advisory and a technical advisory committee to investigate this topic. The Council requested a member of this commission be a member of the citizen advisory committee. Chair Schimmel asked for a volunteer. Mr. Holan, the first meeting will held the first part of November, there will be total of four meetings in addition to some prep time required. Commissioner Taylor volunteered to be a representative.
7. **PRESENTATION: Food Waste.** Mr. Egleston from Washington County Food Waste provided an overview of the city's food waste program to date. On June 13, the program started, on June 21 a letter was sent out to 5,800 accounts, see handout for press release for information and garbage rates, what to recycle and where. At the Farmers Market we talked to over 250 folks at our booth. We started delivery of the kitchen pails and recycling information on August 8. Information and instructions were both in English and Spanish. We followed up with a coupon and a post card. We're working on when the composting materials will be available. One coupon per person will be eligible for composting materials. Schools will be eligible for materials as well. On September 7, we held a workshop at the Farmers Market.

Mr. Downey, Waste Management indicated there has been an increase of 62 tons of materials picked up for composting.

Mr. Egleston, this is the county's first program its success will be hard to duplicate. Commissioner Cole thanked Mr. Egleston for his and the agency's hard work.

Mr. Egleston, in 2015, DEQ commenced awarding Management Grants, something they had not done in six years. They were in a catch up mode which set the overall program back a couple of months. Another issue was the city's utility billing distribution which included multifamily residences who were not eligible for the pails. This was an issue for determining whose accounts were to receive the pails. Beaverton and Hillsboro are next to decide on the composting program, they have over 100,000 accounts.

Mr. Downey, Metro is looking at the commercial food scrap waste stream and how to get it out of the overall waste stream. Food wastes account for 18% of the overall waste stream going to landfills. For hauling purposes, this amount requires 5000 long haul trucks to the landfill per year accommodate this waste. Metro is looking for alternatives to mitigate this impact and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Future options are being explored; a partial ban on food waste going to the landfill, a mandatory waste separation system, higher rate tariffs are among other potential options. Commercial food scrap waste issues are hard to deal with, decision makers and corporate offices are sometimes located in other states. Metro is looking at alternatives and they will look at each community and their needs. They're will be a phase in time to work on proposals and alternatives. Schools are yet to be added to the commercial category. Students consume the food so there is not a large amount of food waste for disposal.

- 8. TOPIC AREA: Amendment to Commission By-laws.** Mr. Holan handed out draft language for consideration to amend the by-laws. Amendments proposed are to remove Clean Water Services as a voting member. Chair Schimmel, proposed amendments are to be forwarded on to Council. Chair Schimmel, as an example of a potential amendment, the alternate for Commissioner Rose will need to apply for a Commission position if she is to become a voting member. Folks will need to fill out a City application and be interviewed by Council, to fill vacant positions with the Commission.

Commissioner Lindsley, I would like to propose we have a land & farmer position on our commission. Chair Schimmel, we have thirteen categories that make up the Commission. Commissioner Lindsley made a motion to amend the by-laws to create a new category for the Commission, Agriculture Representative. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kramer.

Commissioner Taylor asked Mr. Holan, what determined the number of categories created for the Commission. Mr. Holan, I used the City Corvallis by-laws who has thirteen categories on their sustainability commission. Commissioner Lindsley, my intent is to have Mr. Spiesschart, a rural farmer apply for this position. The motion was voted on and approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner Feik to amend the By-laws to remove Clean Water Services from the Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hayes. The motion was voted on and approved. Chair Schimmel, we now have three vacancies on the Commission to fill. Mr. Holan, we have included additional language to add a member of a governmental agency as a non-voting member, like Clean Water Services. An overall motion was made; to strike Clean Water Services as a voting member and to add a category (10) agriculture representative, to the Commission as well as adding language to allow a governmental agency as a non-voting member (see Mr. Holan's proposed language). Motion passed. Mr. Holan, I will take the proposed amendments to Council for their consideration for one of their meetings in October.

9. Topic AREA: Light Pollution. Chair Schimmel, I visited Mr. Spiesschart property to see the security light he had concerns with. Mr. Cress was asked for an update since the last Commission meeting. The individual security lights are rented from the City; we did place a shroud on one of the property owners in question.

Chair Schimmel, what we want to ascertain tonight if there is a policy issue that we need to recommend to the Council on this topic. Mr. Spiesschart, I want to address this topic with the Commission. I have written comments that I will submit (see handout). My main concern is the light pollution emitting from LED lights that are not shrouded, they affect livability and safety. I would like the Commission to weigh in on this topic. The high school field and the Mormon Church have done a good job in eliminating glare. I would like to be part of the conversation on this issue. General discussion followed on the topic of the LED's brightness and how it impacts rural areas.

Commissioner Hayes, I feel that we should not be installing lights that project into neighboring properties. They should be required to use a shroud to focus the light downward.

Commissioner Cole, I recommend writing an educational piece for the editor concerning this topic of light pollution. Chair Schimmel, in summary; the property owners along Purdin Road should be informed of the availability for placing shrouds on their rental lights, Commissioner Cole will draft an information article on this topic for the local newspaper, Chair Schimmel and Commissioner Hayes to get the facts to make a recommendation for a new City policy regarding LED lights and the use of shrouds to prevent night glare.

10. Topic AREA: Sustainability Symposium. Commissioner Lanzar resigned from the Commission. Commissioner Lindsley will be the lead in place of Ms. Lanzar. I think further consideration be given to this topic. No further discussion was made.

11. Topic AREA: Work Plan: Chair Schimmel welcomed Mayor Truax. Chair Schimmel our intent tonight is to provide an opportunity for the Mayor to discuss and respond to the list of questions that Councilor Lowe presented to Council on behalf of the Commission. There was a list of questions regarding Council's response to our Climate Letter and the 21 Youth's law suit.

Mayor Truax I'm not speaking for the Council, I don't believe Council conducted a full discussion on these issues. We are certainly concerned about climate issues. I'm not willing to intercede in global issues without the Council's full support. In addition, City staff cannot work on political issues as well. The Council can make proclamations and resolutions regarding global issues but staff cannot be involved on city time in these matters.

Councilor Lowe, I understand your caution, I'm trying to understand how we can take a position on the FERC LNG pipeline issues at the Council but not global climate issues. Mayor Truax, I wrote the resolution for Council consideration on the LNG issue. We took a political stand without the involvement of city staff. I will take the time and respond in more detail to the Commission after the November election.

Commissioner Gundersen, did the Council as a group discuss the climate letter. Mayor Truax, yes Councilor Lowe brought the letter to the Council. The Council asked me to write a letter in response back to your letter. Commissioner Gundersen, I'm frustrated about these global issues and how we react to them. Don't get me wrong, I think the actions we've taken to date are great but they are not keeping pace at the rate these things are coming forward. I look at these things and what we've done to date and they are not addressing the big issues.

Mayor Truax, I don't know how much time we have, you folks are a better judge of that. Government does not react or move that fast. Mayor Truax gave the example of the strafom cups and their impact on the environment and how government dealt with it over time.. It's not like we haven't done anything. Government has many stakeholders who we are accountable to, much more than business.

Commissioner Feik, we have to mobilize like we did in WWII to avoid WWII over environmental global issues. I have been before the Council regarding the 21 Youth law suit, we did not get to debate this because of time issues. I want the Council to support the law suit by proclamation or resolution. I feel it's the economy or the environment that politicians are making their decisions by. Mayor Truax, I don't feel it's either or, I'm not going to give you a Council response to night, this is a political issue and we need further discussion on this. I would be willing to hold a Council work session if a Councilor requested it and a vote was taken to place it on the agenda. In addition, an item can get on the agenda by having the city manager and me place an item on the agenda. I don't want to go in a direction that we as a Council shouldn't go. If we join with other City's on a global issue that's one thing but tackling a global issue by ourselves is a difficult task. The LNG pipeline was an issue closer to home because it involved our City's watershed.

Commissioner Hayes we are asking you to do this because we want to know what you think. By having the City make a stance alone will have very little affect. I would like the City to take action on reducing fees for new homes especially for tiny homes; this could help with the affordable homes issue.

Commissioner Lindsley, I'm concern over the city's readiness or resiliency to respond to a major disaster.

Commissioner Taylor, my frustration is over the time it takes to make things happen. Our interface tonight was great, my question is there a way for us to be more effective. Mayor Truax, we want to make the right decision and sometimes it takes a little longer to make it. There are safe guards built in the decision making process; we go slow, we conduct hearings we have staff reports to consider in the process. We need to move quicker on the issues we can move on if we have a consensus.

Chair Schimmel, Council appointed thirteen activist, you see the energy from those letters, we are concerned on these issues. We are concern with the urgency and the access from the Council. We want a shared acknowledgement on the topic areas we are presenting. We need

help channeling our energy in the civic process. Chair Schimmel thanked the Mayor for being here tonight.

Topic Area: Work Plan. Vice Chair Taylor, I want to improve our effectiveness, if we rally as a group we can be more effective and add value to the community. We need to place more focus on our economic resources in carrying out our Work Plan, not just approving any project that walks in the door. Vice Chair Taylor asked members if they have identified their top five things they would like to focus on, i.e. education. Do we lump do we split items. A summary of the Work Plan (see handout) was distributed to members for discussion at the next meeting. Commissioner Hayes, I like your criteria, we need a champion for work on these topics. Vice Chair Taylor, we need to do what is best for the community. We need to identify priorities and step up to do the work. We need more help with subcommittees. I want us to be more effective. Focus on your top five priorities and bring them to the next meeting.

12. Topic Area: Pacific U. Pipeline: Mr. Levesque a student a Pacific U. and a member of school's Sustainable Society will be the school's liaison for the commission and be a tie for future projects.

13. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS: Commissioner Lindsley

14.Future AGENDA TOPICS: Next month's agenda to include Work Plan priorities, Pacific U. Pipeline topics.

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

Respectfully Submitted
George Cress, Director
Light & Power