

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

THURSDAY, January 26, 2017 – 6:30 P.M.

Mayor Pete Truax

Brian Schimmel
Deke Gundersen
Robin Lindsley
Hope Kramer

Mitch Taylor, Chair
John Hayes
Melanie Estrada Lopez
Dale Feik

All public meetings are open to the public and all persons are permitted to attend any meetings except as otherwise provided by ORS 192:

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CALL TO ORDER:

Sustainability Commission Present: Chair Brian Schimmel, Robin Lindsley, John Hayes,
Melanie Estrada, Mitch Taylor, Deke Gundersen

Excused Absence: Hope Kramer, Dale Feik

Absent: Jacob Rose

Council Present: Mayor Truax

Staff Present: Jon Holan Community Development Director, Rob Foster Public Works
Director, Brandi Walstead Program Coordinator

Guests: Edgar Fausto, David Ferrier – Nana Cardoon; Amber Lewis – Rose Grove; Megan
Clark; Lyle Spiesschaert

1. REGULAR MEETING: Chair Schimmel called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Chair Schimmel announced that with the New Year it is time to elect a new chair.

Commissioner Hayes made a motion to elect Commissioner Taylor; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Lindsley. Discussion: None. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Lindsley made a motion to elect Commissioner Schimmel as Vice Chair; the motion is seconded by Commissioner Hayes.

Discussion: Commissioner Schimmel states that he feels it is important to have up and coming Commissioners take part in the leadership of the Commission and in such spoke to Commissioner Rose about taking the position as Vice Chair.

The motion to elect Commissioner Schimmel as Vice Chair is withdrawn and the order of business is tabled until next meeting.

Commissioner Taylor takes position as Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Chair Taylor reminds members of the Commission that there are four positions on the Commission that need to be recruited for. He further states the importance of giving time and commitment encourages members to step up to fill the Vice Chair position if Commissioner Rose is unable to fulfill such duty.

2. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS: None

3. CONSENT AGENDA: Chair Taylor requested clarification of information in minutes from November. States that the minutes show three positions versus four positions open and six members versus five members being needed for a quorum. Ms. Walstead points out that the minutes were from November, at which time there were three positions open, a fourth position opened in December with Commissioner Pfeiffer-Hoyt's term ending. The information in the November meeting minutes is correct for that time frame.

Commissioner Hayes submitted a correction of community member who attended the November meeting: minutes showed Sheryl Lumai, correction to Charlotte Luma.

Commissioner Schimmel moved to accept the meeting minutes with the correction by Commissioner Hayes, seconded by Commissioner Gundersen. Discussion: none. Motion passes unanimously.

4. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: none presented

5. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: Per Resolution No. 2016-73, Mayor Truax has been appointed as Council Liaison for the Sustainability Commission with Staff support being Community Development Director, Public Works Director and Program Coordinator.

Mayor Truax provided an update of what the format for the Annual Townhall Meeting will look like. The topic being the identity of Forest Grove and the comparison of a couple of other cities that has like aspects to Forest Grove but also differences in the services offered.

Lodging Transit Tax that is forthcoming: Committee is meeting; there have been two meetings thus far, Steve Volstadt of Sake One is the chair of that committee with Lois Hornberger being Vice Chair. This is something that the City has received permission to put in to place up to 3%, 70% of that money has to go to tourism or hotel/restaurant related issues. Example is that Lincoln City wanted to place a restroom, it was denied because it is not a tourist activity, and the money could not be used for that. Mayor Truax will come back with an idea of what it could be used for, for example, perhaps a performing arts arena such as Beaverton is using theirs for. Like previously stated, 70% must be used in such a way and the other 30% may go into the general fund. Chair Taylor asked the Mayor if he is aware of what amounts that tax would bring in, Mayor Truax stated he does not but will get those figures for the Commission.

Affordable Housing Technical Committee: data is being put together to be passed on to Ad-Hoc Committee that will be meeting to figure out how we will be dealing with that crucial issue. Mitch, Brian and Mayor Truax attended a meeting of Vision X Network and another group to talk about the same issue this evening at Sonrise Church, it turned into a gliding conversation.

Mayor Truax sat on a committee dealing with Transit charges and how to make fares affordable for those in low income brackets without driving TriMet into a public agency.

February 27th will be the State of the City Address which will take place at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon in conjunction with Mayor Dalin for the City of Cornelius.

City Council –received an update on transportation issues from Georg Cress as a Light & Power update and the cost associated with those projects. George was presented with a certificate after five years with the City of Forest Grove and some forty years of public service. We will be seeking his successor.

Vote on Sanctuary City was a 3/3 tie, leaving it as a failed resolution due to lacking majority. Mayor Truax received comments on both sides, with some being happy we did not pass it and some being very sad that it did not pass. We are in this together and we need to find unanimity as a council. Commissioner Schimmel: stated that he is proud of previous Commissioner Sanchez who gave testimony as a member of the Social Equity Sub-Committee and effectively from the Sustainability Commission, his statement is part of the meeting packet.

6. STAFF REPORT:

Ms. Walstead:

As follow up from the Work Session with City Council for the Sustainability Commissions Work Plan, the Commission now needs to submit a Resolution for adoption by Council. Chair Taylor requested assistance on this matter; Ms. Walstead will draft the Resolution and send to Chair Taylor and Mr. Holan for review.

Per Bev Maughan, if the Commission still wants to do a Hard to Recycle event, the time is coming for that as it was previously decided it would be best held in connection with the City Wide Shredding Event. Ms. Maughan needs to have the utility bill insert piece by the end of March for the April utility bill. The shredding event is held on the 1st Saturday of May. Commissioner Schimmel advised that previous Commissioner Cole was the champion for this event. Chair Taylor will contact Elaine Cole concerning this event. Chair Taylor asked of Commissioner Gundersen whether the Hard to Recycle event would be a project that the Pacific Pipeline could work on. Commissioner Gundersen stated that it is a possibility and he will bring it up to Ramona. Edgar Sanchez stated that he is a part of the Students for Environmental Awareness and can bring the topic up to the group. Commissioner Gundersen will send Ms. Walstead Nick's email address; she in turn will send a blurb on the Recycling event as noted in prior meeting minutes.

Mr. Holan:

Regarding affordable housing, two committees were formed: a technical and citizen advisory group. There are three things committee decided to address: confirm the percentage of income devoted to housing at 30%, which includes cost of housing plus utility costs; affordable housing development should be a range of income levels between 30-60% of medium; and how to get homeless into permanent housing. The second meeting was held on January 25, 2017. The meeting ended up being mostly focused on homelessness. There will be another meeting held in February, refocusing on affordable housing not discussed at the January 25th meeting. The Committees are scheduled to have a recommendation to present in May. The latest census data indicates that average monthly rental levels at \$799. Experience seems to be higher than the annotated amount. Staff did an inventory of apartments in Forest Grove representing 895 units. At this time, nine are available for rent, resulting in a vacancy rate of about one percent and making it difficult for someone to find rental space in this community. The city has approved three projects that will bring in more rental spaces, which would bring availability up to 25% but all of these are at market rate. There was a state law passed, SB 1533, which allows communities to require inclusionary housing. On projects with 20 units or more, up to 20% can be designated for affordable housing. Hayes thought it was state law, Holan explained that it is an option for local municipalities and that the income level in the law is so high that it is meaningless for Forest Grove.

Chair Taylor requested that if there is a way for the commission to weigh in that Mayor Truax let the commission know. Mayor Truax – state law states that Affordable Housing units have to be spread throughout the community; they cannot be congested into one area. 80 % of SB 1533 is set at 80% of the county median family income, not Forest Grove which is why all the projects in the works will not suffice for Affordable Housing.

Commissioner Schimmel: The CEP committee awarded \$6,175 for the Collaborative Sustainability Community grant. We have had four projects awarded grant money allocated to them, leaving \$4,020 unallocated in the budget.

7. Topic Area: Presentation: Mini-Grant Applicant, Nana Cardoon.

David Ferrier: the grant is requested to purchase seed for test plots. There is currently 3 acres of plots, 1 acre of rye which has been consumed by slugs, 2 acres of red fife which is doing well. Lyle Spiesschaert explained that red fife is a baking wheat and they are hoping to reach a “raise here, eat here” point with wheat. Mr. Ferrier explained that they hope to not only provide wheat flour to homes but to bakers and wheat to brewers locally as well. The expensive part now is finding wheat that grows well to develop future generation seed.

Commissioner Schimmel made a motion to approve the min-grant, Commissioner Gundersen seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Schimmel states that the mini-grants are in the business of providing seed money to help a project go through a learning

curve so that they are then able to apply for a larger scale grant later. Chair Taylor: as Mr. Spiesschaert stated, it makes more sense to be growing, buying and eating local. That is what this commission is about. Vote: Motion passes unanimously.

8. Topic AREA: Presentation: Mini Grant Applicant; Short Film

This topic is presented by Commissioner Schimmel and Megan Clark, local videographer: Commissioner Schimmel shared that he feels the commission could benefit from some local awareness. The commission lacks a good public face and videos would help to show what has been done and what the commission intends to do. This mini-grant would cover one video that would focus on the 7 topic areas giving an introductory awareness. Ms. Clark provided a short introduction of her background. Commissioner Schimmel and Ms. Clark went through the current application. There was discussion on needed changes and additions to the application, which was lacking an accurate budget and project description.

Commissioner Lindsley made a motion to approve the mini-grant, Commissioner Gundersen seconded. Discussion: Chair Taylor presented that the application is incomplete and that the commission would not accept an incomplete and inaccurate application from an outside applicant and that it would be inappropriate to accept one from a commission member. Commissioner Lindsley changed her motion to accept with the required changes with payments being approved if the final and complete application is sent to Ms. Walstead by Monday, January 30, 2017. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gundersen. Discussion: Chair Taylor further stated that the process should be followed. Vote: Yeas, 5 Nays, 1. Motion Passes.

- 9. Topic Area: Sustainable Resilience Conference:** Commissioner Lindsley requested that commissioners refer to the notes handed out from the last sub-committee meeting for the conference. Commissioner Lindsley stated that it was determined that if the full commission is in agreement, rather than a conference the sub-committee will schedule a series of Sustainability Pubs. The Commission decided that this would be the best course of action. Robin will submit target dates to Mr. Holan to determine availability of the Community Auditorium. The consensus was for the first of the series to be titled “What is Sustainability?” and will be presented by Commissioner Gundersen. Commissioners were asked to send names and contact information of other possible speakers to Commissioner Lindsley. Members to continue forward on the sub-committee will be Commissioners Lindsley and Gundersen as well as Chair Taylor. Mr. Sanchez will serve on the sub-committee as well.

- 10. TOPIC AREA: Work Plan Priorities:** Chair Taylor requested that each Commissioner submit their prioritization of their projects in relation to the Annual Work Plan prior to the February regular meeting.

Commissioner Schimmel stated that articles for the News Times should be submitted to Jill Smith, the article should be less than 500 words and should allow a week for processing through the News Times cycle. There should be one article submitted per month.

11. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS:

12. FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS: Chair Taylor requested that Ms. Walstead begin giving updates of topics and issues covered at the Partners for a Sustainable Washington County Community (PSWCC) during Staff Report.

13. Plus/Delta: None presented at this time.

14. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brandi Walstead, Program Coordinator
City of Forest Grove

Approved by the Forest Grove Sustainability Commission:

Date: February 23, 2017