

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

THURSDAY, March 23, 2017 – 6:00 P.M.

Hope Kramer	Mayor Pete Truax	Mitch Taylor, Chair
Brian Schimmel		Jacob Rose, Vice Chair
Deke Gundersen		John Hayes
Robin Lindsley		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:

➔ Citizen Communications – Anyone wishing to speak on an issue not on the agenda should sign in for Citizen Communications prior to the meeting. The presiding officer will call the individual or group by the name given on the sign in form. Each person must state his or her name and give an address for the record.

All public meetings are handicap accessible. Assistive Listening Devices (ALD) or qualified sign language interpreters are available for persons with impaired hearing or speech. For any special accommodations, please contact the City Recorder, at (503) 992-3235, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER:

Sustainability Commission Present: Chair Mitch Taylor, Robin Lindsley, John Hayes, Melanie Estrada, Brian Schimmel, Deke Gundersen, Jacob Rose, Dale Feik, Hope Kramer

Council Present: Mayor Truax

Staff Present: Brandi Walstead Program Coordinator

Guests:

1. CEP GRANT PROCESS & DECISION: Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 17:37 PM.

The regular meeting of the Sustainability Commission was extended in order to discuss possible CEP Grant submissions from the Sustainability Commission.

Chair Taylor reviewed the known information for a pilot bike share program. The program consists of implementing donated bicycles to a shared program among the community. The Commissioners discussed various aspects of the program and the needs from the Commission in order to ensure the success of the pilot program.

Commissioner Schimmel made a motion to accept the Pilot Bike Share Program as a topic for a CEP grant application from the Sustainability Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hayes. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Schimmel reviewed information concerning the Community Mini-Grant that has been awarded by CEP Grants for the past two years. Mr. Schimmel discussed the funds

that have been previously awarded and how they have been allocated over the past two grant periods.

Commissioner Kramer made a motion to accept the Collaborative Sustainable Community as a CEP grant application submission from the Sustainability Commission. The motion was seconded by vice Chair Rose. Motion passes unanimously.

2. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS: None

3. CONSENT AGENDA: Chair Taylor asked for any changes or corrections to the February meeting minutes. No changes or corrections were identified.

Commissioner Lindsley moved to accept the meeting minutes as presented, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Schimmel. Discussion: none. Motion carries unanimously.

4. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: none presented

5. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT:

Mayor Truax provided a report.

A work session will take place on Monday night, March 27th regarding possible land for sell or trade adjacent to the Forest Grove watershed. The value of this is to have under city control riparian areas that may need to be protected in order to preserve our watershed. It would help to ensure better logging practices within these areas. It is likely that if this were to happen, the areas would not be logged for approximately 40 years and would then be included in the same practices that we follow for the watershed.

Report from Val Valfre, Executive Director of the Housing Authority of Washington County and Director of the Washington County Department of Housing Services and Annette Evans, the Washington County Homeless Program Coordinator. The report centered on the assessment of the county's 10-year plan to end homelessness. In that report there were figures that applied directly to Forest Grove. Of three questions, answers were 14 people were staying in their car, 16 were on the street, 4 were camping and 4 were staying in some other spot. Length of homelessness: 21 people less than 90 days, 4 91 days to a year and 13 were at over a year of homelessness. How many episodes of homelessness in the past three years (7 or more consecutive nights): 14 had 1 episode, 11 had 2 episodes, 2 had 3 episodes and 11 had 4 or more. This is not a Tualatin problem, or Portland problem, or Gresham problem, it is the region. County wide figures show 63 homeless veterans reported in 2016 compared to 103 veterans in 2012. Housing Authority awarded vouchers to 10 of these for a total of 90 vouchers to veterans. Community Action Organization served 82 at risk and homeless veterans with supportive services to veteran families in order to avoid eviction, payment of utility bills etc. 90 chronically homeless adults accessed housing and received client services. 83.6% of program participants in shelter and housing are first time homeless.

Report from the City Manager on the citizen survey report and it showed that our website became number 4 for information. It is becoming wider array as to where citizens are receiving information or prefer to receive information. Mayor Truax reviewed the various results of the survey.

Returned a week ago from Washington D.C. Arrived at the end of the budget process, that returned a 31% cut to the EPA. That is loss of people and it cascades down. Our Congressional delegations understand and it will not be a hard sell speaking to them about the cut from EPA and how it affects DEQ in the state of Oregon. We need to tell them stories so that they have those during testimonies. The same applies to Community Development block grants, but that is the funding that we use for water systems, timber, and Laurelwood. It is used for affordable housing, Juniper Gardens I & II. It is used for 26th Ave and Fir Lane sewer line and storm drains. That CDBG budget has been zeroed out. Those are the kinds of projects within our community that we have told the story of. If there are things that you want funded here that uses federal dollars, you need to tell that story.

6. STAFF REPORT:

Ms. Walstead:

Ms. Walstead and Cindy Laird-Garcia attended the Climate Adaptation Resiliency Conference with the keynote speaker, Kathie Dello from Oregon Climate Services. Topics were primarily waterways and watersheds as well as planting zone changes. Ms. Walstead gave an overview of the information gained from the conference.

Ms. Walstead provided a summary of the recent PSWCC meeting and of the Clean Water Festival.

Attended, along with members of the Sustainability Commission, an Air Quality Forum.

Due to overlapping goals, a bicycle steering committee has started involving the Chairs from both the Sustainability Commission and the Economic Development Commission, it also included the Directors from Public Works and Parks & Rec, Howard Sullivan from the Chamber and the Economic Development Coordinator.

7. MINI-GRANT PROPOSAL: ROOTS & SHOOTS

Charlie Graham, Roots & Shoots Club: One of the oldest running clubs at Tom McCall. Last year the Sustainability Commission granted funding through a mini-grant for a trip to Nana Cardoon's urban learning farm. It was very successful. Asking this year to extend the trips into five trips in order for the children to see planting in the spring and planting in the fall. Commissioner Schimmel addressed the fact the funds have to be spent by June 30th, asked about coming back to the Commission for funding for the fall project. Eden Acres representative, Fallon Harris stated that Eden Acres would invoice for the full amount of the five visits prior to July 1st and then the Roots & Shoots would still be able to visit in the fall.

Commissioner Lindsley made the motion to approve the amended mini-grant that would include amount of other funding discussed and to extend the maximum amount of \$500 up to \$800 for full funding; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kramer. Discussion: Commissioner Hayes requested information on the finances of the mini-grants inquiring where this amount would put the budget. Commissioner Schimmel stated that there would be remaining budget to fund all three of the remaining applications that have been received if the Commissioner votes to do so. Motion carries unanimously.

8. MINI-GRANT PROPOSAL: EDEN ACRES

Terry O'Day, Eden Acres: Requests funding for basic garden tools. Reasoning, Eden Acres works with various groups at various sites. These sites do not always have all of the tools needed to accomplish the job at hand without barrowing tools. Fallon Harris offered information that one issue is within the Expanding School Gardens program is that there is not enough tools for all of the students to be involved. The tools would be in a lending library for use at the school gardens as well as all of the other groups serviced by Eden Acres.

Commissioner Hayes requested further explanation of the amount in Personnel Services. This budget item is not requested from the mini-grant, it is covered by the Sponsor for staff salary.

Commissioner Hayes made a motion to approve the mini-grant as presented, motion seconded by Commissioner Feke. Motion carries unanimously.

9. ANNUAL WORKPLAN REVIEW:

Chair Taylor led a discussion and voting of items on the Annual Work Plan list to focus on. The top three topics that received between 3-5 votes include: Education (to include the pubs, video series), Bike Share Program, and News Paper Articles. It was concluded that each member of the commission will commit to each take a month to write an article for the paper and will have the topic approved by the commission. Each month there will be an agenda item(s) dedicated to working on the top priority projects. Other projects that members are collaborating on smaller scale will continue. Some of these include:

- School Recycling Bins
- Backyard Burn Ban – need to gain community support through education
- School Gardens – through the CEP grant and will hopefully continue through another grant not overseen by the commission
- Watershed education – to be covered under education, possibly by a speaker in the pub series
- Continued education on residential food composting
- Hard to Recycle event (fall event)

The discussion was had of leaving the word “sustainability” out of the pub series title. A final decision on the title was not made.

The workplan item under Social Equity, specifically the Latino Summit was discussed. Commissioner Schimmel stated that the City would be taking the reins of that. Vice Chair

Rose stated that he would be interested in still taking part in that even if the City is taking the lead on it. Ms. Walstead stated that her understanding was that the City would be working in relation with the sub-committee with that, not taking the lead but will check with the City Manager. Commissioner Schimmel stated that he believed it would be more of an advisory committee moving forward. Commission member's related desire to know what was happening; Commissioner Schimmel stated that would likely happen through staff updates and perhaps the Commission could then work on issues related to those reports. Ms. Walstead will report back to Chair Taylor on the status of the issue from City Staff perspective.

Due to varying issues it was determined that the planned for date of April 21, 2017 for the Sustainability Pub would be set back to May 19, 2017. Commissioner Gundersen will check with Theater in the Grove in regards to hosting the pub at that location.

10. FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS:

The next meeting will include two more mini-grant presentations as well as a presentation from Metro and Washington County Solid Waste & Recycling on commercial food scraps.

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

14. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 P.M.

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

Approved by the Forest Grove Sustainability Commission:

Date: April 27, 2017