

Meeting Minutes: Burn Plan/Ban Subcommittee Monday June 7, 2021

Members Attending: Greg Arrigotti, Tonya Johnson, Johanna Peeters Weem, Ed Uecker. **Excused:** Fallon Harris.

Start Time: 7:03 PM PDST

End Time: 7:39 PM PDST

- (1) Ed reported that a response to our questions regarding Mission specifics for this Subcommittee had not yet been received, so we are still unclear about the precise mission and expectations.
- (2) Greg addressed the Conflict of Interest matter with the team members. He clarified the potential areas of conflict and the “perception” of possible conflict. We agreed that with any issue or area that Greg feels the perception of a conflict could be a problem for him, that those matters could be researched, followed up and reported on by other SubCmte members. Greg, owing to his experience in the technical issues and systems associated with Air Quality measurement will continue to analyze and provide research direction on Air Quality Systems. We have agreed that concerns regarding conflict that might pose a conflict is Greg’s call, and that we would support and carry out any inquiries he determines to be crucial.

It was also pointed out that in any event, decisions and actions on recommendations put forward to the Sustainability Commission and then to the City Council would first be approved by this SubCmte, then by the Sustainability Commission and the ultimate decision to pursue and commit resources and funding would be the sole decision of the City Council. Our subcommittee functions only as a research, reporting and recommending support group.

Finally, the team agreed to hold off on any such research, etc. until the City Council provides clear mission guidance and expected outcomes to this Subcommittee.

Greg finally noted that on any attempt by the team to reach consensus for recommendation for sensors or data, he would abstain from voting to avoid any conflict questions.

- (3) Tonia pointed out that her personal research shows that Hillsboro and Oregon DEQ both say that we can't burn *ever*. Hillsboro, Oregon DEQ, Washington County and Metro all have rules all have rules about Burning, so one of us should do a comparison, looking closely at commonalities and differences or issues (such as burning of household garbage or potential toxins like plastic).

Greg also pointed out that, existing rules notwithstanding, he sees a lot of burning going on in areas that are not within any city limits and inquired about enforcement of such rules e.g. by the rule-makers. He also said that Oregon DEQ's rules are primary and supersede any other entity-issued rules that have lesser requirements than DEQ.

- (4) Johanna also pointed out our need to understand the nature of Air Quality complaints: are they about people burning garbage or plastics or are they just about "too much smoke at one time" when burning is open? citywide or farmers are field burning. We also need to understand how many such complaints are about impacts on the health of the complaining individual, or more like a "nuisance" complaint. She also noted that Cornelius has a ban in place and agreed to find out more specifics about their rules. Greg noted that Cornelius has similar demographics and city-to-ag lands ratios to Forest Grove.

Ed agreed to seek out sources of possible answers to these issues, starting with Elizabeth Stover to see if she can point us at the people who would know or possess such data. Greg pointed out that we really need to know what the Council's reasons, concerns and objectives are for the "Burning Plan/Ban" before we invest a great deal of time.

- (5) A brief discussion of how to communicate the specifics of the burn plan/ban was briefly discussed, but again, it was agreed that this would be another issue better put off until we have clear direction and objectives from the FG City Council.
- (6) The team determined that, aside from the research that Johanna and Ed have agreed to handle, it is probably going to be unproductive to schedule another meeting until we have the necessary
- (7) Meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM PDST

Minutes prepared & submitted by Ed Uecker