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**CITY OF FOREST GROVE
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
ZOOM WEBINAR & COMMUNITY AUDITORIUM
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.**

MEETING MINUTES Approved by Commission on October 28, 2021.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Nieves called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Sustainability Commission Present:

Ed Uecker
Tonya Johnson
Amber Nieves

Johanna Peeters Weem
Greg Arrigotti

Robin Lindsley
Elena Uhing

Absent, Unexcused: None.

Absent, Excused: Steven Barnard, Fallon Harris

Staff: Elizabeth Stover

Guests: None

- 1. Community Communications:** None.
- 2. Commissioner Communications:** Chair Nieves read the Sustainability Commission mission statement: Using all resources (societal, economic, and natural) in an efficient and equitable manner. Sustainability in Forest Grove means considering long-term environmental, economic, and social impacts of our actions. Sustainability prioritizes long-term needs over short-term gains to ensure that resources necessary to sustain life are available now and in the future.
- 3. Consent Agenda & Review Minutes:** Lindsley commented that some counties are making statements about burn plans/bans. She will try to locate links to these articles and share with the Commission. Peeters Weem stated the Forest Grove High School food pantry will be opening again soon, and the community closet may possibly start, as well. Uhing suggested possible partnerships with Pacific University or local churches to provide additional space for the community closet. The Council will be discussing the Youth Advisory Council on Monday, September 27. Nieves updated the Commission regarding the Recycling Modernization Act. Upcoming Commission meetings will be November 18 and December 16.
- 4. Agenda Additions/Deletions:** Nieves moved to approve the August minutes; Uecker seconded. Unanimous approval.
- 5. Ordinance Discussion:** Nieves requested someone speak to the Commission about policy process and provide an outline to the group to follow. Uhing will reach out to former members. Staff will advise on policy process, as well.
- 6. Mural Mini-Grant Application:** Lindsley is working on a cooking class and cookbook program. Nieves suggested a mini-grant application for the Forest Grove High School community closet. Suggested to put mini-grant availability information on the City's website under the Sustainability Commission page.
- 7. Burn Plan Discussion:** Uecker updated the Commission on the Burn Plan subcommittee progress. Lindsley stated Tualatin Valley has a burn map with information points. Uhing requested the Commission consider social issues, services, and accessibility prior to engagement and outreach and continue to call it a Burn Plan, not Burn Ban.

- 8. Council Liaison Report:** Uhing updated the Commission regarding: staff retirements, Quarterly Town Meeting, various programs at the City, and American Rescue Plan Act. Uhing asked the Commission to consider how they would like the Council to communicate with the community and the Commission, and bring those suggestions to the next meeting. She will also send a Smart Cities link to the group for further reading.
- 9. Staff Report:** Stover updated the Commission on City programs and projects, including the status of the Program Coordinator recruitment, the upcoming presentation to Council regarding the Communications Plan, and the progress of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion work. Reminder to the Commission that any members whose terms expire will need to reapply.
- 10. Future Agenda Topics:** For the October meeting:
 - Burn Plan
 - Mini-grant community education opportunities
 - City's Communications Plan
 - Smart City discussion
 - Oregon Food Bank Food Finder – Lindsley
- 11. Adjournment:** Nieves adjourned the meeting at 7:21 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Stover, Program Coordinator

City of Forest Grove

Approved by the Forest Grove Sustainability Commission: Date: October 28, 2021