



A place where families and businesses thrive.

**CITY OF FOREST GROVE
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
ZOOM & COMMUNITY AUDITORIUM
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2022 – 6:00 P.M.**

MEETING MINUTES Approved by Commission.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Arrigotti called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

Sustainability Commission Present:

Holly Sackett Tonya Johnson
Ed Uecker Greg Arrigotti Michele (new appointee)

Absent, Unexcused:

Absent, Excused: Robin Lindsley

Staff: Joyce Phillips, Paul Downey

Guest: None

Councilor: Elena Uhing

- 1. Public Comment:** *Alan Nivan* is wondering if there are still openings on the board. Interest in reducing green house gas in the city. Would prefer to be a member of the group. Just finished the recruitment for the board, however, he was invited to attend meetings and participate. Can complete an application for submission which will be held until the positions open and will be considered for the next process. *Jennifer Z Hannabel* wanted to bring to the commission’s attention that the emerald ash beetle was discovered here in the area. Can be devastating to the environment and to healthy trees. Forest Grove is in the path of the threaten area and there has been discussions on a moratorium of moving wood. The resources needed to treat this beetle is a wood chipper, pesticides, or debarking or heat (basically burning the invested tree.) Wood burning would be the best way to dispose of this beetle. Suggested to postpone the wood burn ban to work with the citizens to assist in eliminating the investing. Uhing asked Jennifer to send the link to the Forestry Commission. *Dale Feik*, chair of the Washington County Air Quality Committee Chair, recently shared this information with Hillsboro and Forest Grove Commissioners; the book, Footprint A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Extinction by John H. Patterson. An energy assessment report was last executed by an intern in 2011 and he was interested an update. Here to inform, educate, as well as assist the committee.
- 2. Commissioner Communications:** None. Can miss only three meetings a year.
- 3. Consent Agenda & Review Minutes:** Uecker moved to approve the November minutes; Johnson seconded. Unanimous approval.
- 4. Agenda Additions/Deletions:** Delete Lindsley’s portion of the agenda.

5. **Work Plan:** Reviewed the Communication portion of the workplan suggestions. What is the goal? Sackett asked: What is the actionable item? Arrigotti replied: Build information so we can give council research to make decisions on. Reviewed the Day of Service concept: Sackett discussed the idea of the day of service – Love Our City – catalyst for long term involvement. How could this be most effective and serve the community. Police, Fire and Schools, how the non-profits could be sustainability long term. Spending time getting to know the community and where the needs reside and how this can best serve the community, serving one another. Doing the prep work of understanding and identifying the needs of the community before establishing the day. A day of service connects people to their community and the results would be plugging people into segments that they are passionate about and fill in the gaps. How can we bring together, not only a day of service, but link folks to the non-profits to assist in filling the gaps? Police, Fire and Schools are very limited in the ability to release information. A company that Sackett has been in contact with has a website and an app where you can go and sign up for a day of service in an industry that they are interested in. Uhing stated that Sustainability acts as the conduit in getting the research done and some of the structure in place over the next few years. Arrigotti asked: Who needs the assistance and how to we connect with the volunteers? DEI is a goal of the city, as stated by Uhing. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. This opportunity allows us to step into the role of sustainability of all three of these pillars. Uecker suggested the “Day” is spread out through a month of service to allow flexibility of participation. A big single day of service; LOVE OUR CITY - FOREST GROVE DAY that would be the one day that people could come together and volunteer. Suggested to tighten up the wording in the work plan and include a DEI focus. Alan Nevin stated that there is a National Day Out where everyone can come out and volunteer. Uhing discussed the quality-of-life analysis of what type of things that we want to see in the community going forward. Will reevaluate the work plan at the next meeting. Arrigotti: Electric vehicle program how can they make an impact with Light & Power. Research the economic impact of the businesses on the community and how it connects to the small business to the big business. Need data to understand how projects going forward will best serve Forest Grove, so we can be more strategic on what we target.
6. **Circle of Food & Forest Grove Statistics on Hunger: Removed from the agenda.**
7. **Burn Plan Presentation:** Burn Plan would be a presentation at City Council. Uhing suggested a need both a work session so discussion can ensue and research can be discussed. Reviewed the PowerPoint and modifications were suggested. Johnson will make the changes on the PowerPoint.
8. **Council Liaison Report:** Uhing updated the group on two new council members, Martinez and Marshall. Yearly retreat planned. From 8 AM to 1 PM and open to the public. A February board and commission review. Working on the city charter, with the city attorney with state law and updating the language to include DET with the process of a task force. CEI, larger impact grants which provide more visible outcomes.
9. **Staff Report:** Downey updated the Commission regarding first round interviews for Communication and Programs Manager start next week. Michele Magallón-Casto will be attending the next council meeting and will be onboarded by staff. Community Impact grants update. Application process updated in March. Update on city remodel.

10. Future Agenda Topics for the January meeting: Work Plan, Burn Plan revisions, and Holly bring more information on the Day of Service concept. Next meeting Thursday, January 26, 2023.

11. Adjournment: Arrigotti adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m. Moved by Arrigotti, seconded by Johnson . Unanimous approval.

Respectfully Submitted by
Joyce Phillips, Communications/Program Assistant
City of Forest Grove

Approved by the Forest Grove Sustainability Commission
Date: January 26, 2023