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CITY OF FOREST GROVE
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
ZOOM & COMMUNITY AUDITORIUM
THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES Approved by Commission.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Arrigotti called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Sustainability Commission Present:

Robin Lindsley Tonya Johnson
Ed Uecker Greg Arrigotti Michele Magallón-Casto

Absent, Unexcused: None

Absent, Excused: Holly Sackett, Steven Barnard

Staff: Joyce Phillips, Paul Downey

Guest: None

Councilor: Elena Uhing

- 1. Public Comment:** *Alan Niven*, a long-term resident of the city, reminded the committee that he has filed an application and is interested in joining. He believes his experience promoting lowering greenhouse gases, creating good habitats, and using electronic transportation will benefit our group. *Dale Feik*, another long-term resident of the city, shared a copy of the book he has distributed to the council, city managers, and county commissioners; *Footprint: A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Extinction*, by John H. Patterson with the newest Sustainability Commission member. He is interested to work with the committee on preserving the earth.
- 2. Introduction of the newest Commission Member:** Michele Magallón-Casto, a long-term resident of Forest Grove. A former teacher and a master gardener with OSU. Success in launching the master gardener booth at the Farmer’s Market.
- 3. Commissioner Communications:** None.
- 4. Consent Agenda & Review Minutes:** Lindsley proposed the meeting minutes need more a detailed account. Councilor Uhing moved to approve the December minutes as they stand, but more clarity was suggested going forward. Tonya Johnson seconded.
- 5. Agenda Additions/Deletions:** Delete Sackett’s portion of the agenda. Add Lindsley’s Circle of Food & Forest Grove Statistics on Hunger.
- 6. Work Plan:** Councilor Uhing gave a brief update on the Council retreat planning session that occurred on Saturday, January 21st. Sustainability Commission goals need to align with Council initiatives, which the Council is currently updating. Discussed dates to formalize the Work Plan. The council meeting date for the Work Plan presentation is February 27, for a

half-hour, including presenting the updated Burn Plan. Councilor Uhing suggested adding long-term and short-term dates instead of a specific date. Also, Sackett's Day of Service project was removed from the Work Plan due to changed circumstances. Johnson will update this week and send it to members. Styrofoam recycling was briefly discussed and added to the work plan.

7. **Circle of Food & Forest Grove Statistics on Hunger: Added to the agenda.** Food resiliency goals were examined. Lindsley reported Solid Life Pantry has 576 patrons monthly. Discussion regarding creating an actionable dashboard and the resources that are most readily utilized, i.e. SNAP, WIC, food pantries, providers, etc. Possible refrigerator project to provide a storage solution. Arrigotti suggested these statistics be compared to homeless numbers.
8. **Day of Service Discussion:** Removed from agenda.
9. **Burn Plan Presentation:** PowerPoint reviewed. Presentation to Council scheduled for February 27, 2023. Emerald Ash Beetle discussed. The final review of the PowerPoint will occur with Uecker, Johnson, and Councilor Uhing.
10. **Council Liaison Report:** Councilor Uhing discussed the six-hour Council retreat from Saturday, which outlined goals, objectives, and strategies for the upcoming year. Topics such as homeless, resources, sustainability, and funding were reviewed. Certain committees could become ad hoc. Final outcomes to be determined. Considering the viability of all the boards and commissions as our city has more collectively than any other municipality, staffing is a concern. Currently, there are twelve commissions and committees in place, more than any other municipality. Update on the B Street Camp on the Kyle property. Clean-up will start February 13, and they are working with the Forest Grove Foundation to provide housing and services to the campers. Update on CEP Grants; discussed halting the mini-grants and moving toward the \$30K grant with more structured plans. Also, the county is experiencing funding issues that potentially impact our library. The Historic Landmarks Board (HLB) is hosting a repair workshop to educate homeowners on alternatives to replacing existing materials in older homes. There is an opportunity to consider working in harmony with the HLB in the future.
11. **Staff Report:** Downey provided an update on the Council retreat regarding the possibility of the reduction of Committees and Commissions. Community Enhancement Program impact grant applications; one three-year community impact grant for \$30K per year and three one-year grants for \$10K. Boards and Commissions are not eligible. Business food waste recycling rates are to be determined. Remodeling of the new DSA building and City Hall coming along. Scheduled move-in at the end of April. A budget meeting is scheduled for the general fund in April. The library might not receive as much funding from Washington County this year.
12. **Future Agenda Topics** for the February meeting: Work Plan review and Burn Plan revisions. Final preparation for the City Council presentation. The next meeting is Thursday, February 26, 2023.
13. **Adjournment:** Arrigotti adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m. Moved by Arrigotti, seconded by Johnson. Unanimous approval.

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

Approved by the Forest Grove Sustainability Commission
Date: April 27, 2023