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**CITY OF FOREST GROVE
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
ZOOM & COMMUNITY AUDITORIUM
THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.**

MEETING MINUTES Approved by Commission.

CALL TO ORDER: Co-Chair Uecker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Sustainability Commission Present:

Robin Lindsley Tonya Johnson Holly Sackett
Ed Uecker Steven Barnard

Absent, Unexcused: Michele Magallón-Casto,

Greg Arrigotti,

Absent, Excused: None

Staff: Joyce Phillips, Paul Downey

Guest: Cecelia Warner

Councilor: Elena Uhing

1. Public Comment: None

2. Commissioner Communications: Council will direct Sustainability Commission on their involvement with the Carbon Neutral plan. Council is reviewing the viability of all the current Boards & Commissions. Councilor Uhing suggested continuing to move forward until further notice from the Council. The Orchards School – Justin Marble of the Community Forestry Commission, recommends working in partnership with the Sustainability Commission, Historic Landmarks Board, and well as other Boards and Commissions.

3. Consent Agenda & Review Minutes: Correct spelling of Casto’s last name. Round table discussion – working toward a viable food system in Forest Grove as Food Secure Forest Grove subcommittee. Uecker motioned to approve minutes with corrections, Lindsley seconds.

4. Agenda Additions/Deletions: N/A

5. Guest Presentation, Trash Bash – Cecelia Warner: Cecelia Warner presented her litter pick-up event, called the Trash Bash. She distributed informational handouts that summarized the planning, event day needs, and fundraising necessities. Explained the overview concept of the Trash Bash and proposed the Sustainability Commission run this proposed event on September 23, 2023. Cecelia is willing to assist with fundraising and donors. Spoke to the success of the previous event in 2018, which included approximately 50 community volunteers. Several previous Sustainability Commission members were referenced (Fallon and Amber) as possibly interested in being involved. Sackett asked if the Sustainability Commission, due to the short

timeframe for planning, would the event still occur. Cecelia stated, “Yes” it will. Proposed Rogers Park as the destination for the start of the Trash Bash. Cecelia has worked with a host of vendors to secure their participation/contribution to the Trash Bash. She will provide a current list and status of these vendors to the Commission.

- 6. Work Plan Discussion: Next 6 Months of Community Engagement - The Trash Bash**
Presentation was discussed regarding the timeline, the time commitment, and the scope of the workload regarding this event. Suggested that prizes be secured for community participants. Councilor Uhing recommended the commission members conduct more research as to what is involved with all the responsibilities associated with this event, as she considers this a ‘heavy lift’ in a very short period of time. This will assist the members to come to a conclusion if this is a feasible undertaking.
- 7. Discussion Focus for EV and L&P Messaging:** Briefly revised the Consumer Report issue that features the Electric Vehicle report. Lindsley volunteered to reach out to Light & Power regarding acquiring more information about their current EV offering.
- 8. Update of Food Sustainability:** Circle of Food discussed, which is a list of what needs to happen to provide food to our community members. Lindsley stated 28 emails were exchanged to secure the upcoming Food Secure Forest Grove Subcommittee meeting date. It was discussed the Food Secure Forest Grove subcommittee is an open meeting to the public and must follow public meeting rules, including agenda and meeting minute submissions, as these need to be published five days prior to the meeting. A set date and time to be determined as well as the mission and goals of the subcommittee. Public access will be provided through Zoom.
- 9. Highway 47 Homeless & County Ordinance Impact:** The camp on Hwy 47 will be cleaned up and closed permanently by Washington County. Elm Street Pods is an ongoing discussion.
- 10. Work Plan Discussion for Next Meeting:** Discuss EVs; Cecelia Warner and the Trash Bash; Update from the Food Security Forest Grove subcommittee.
- 11. Open Discussion Including Styrofoam:** Sackett reported on the research she conducted regarding Styrofoam recycling, James Recycling, Far West Recycling, Pride Disposal (Sherwood), and St. Vincent DePaul (Eugene) were contacted. Also, VanDyke’s Appliances in Forest Grove were contacted to learn where they dispose of their Styrofoam. Agilyx at 13240 SW Wall Street, Tigard, Oregon, is the only facility that accepts polystyrene in the metro area. Councilor Gustafson is advocating for more resources from Council for Styrofoam Collection/recycling. Councilor Uhing suggested additional research on the processing process, and why PlanetCon (PlanetAlliance) is no longer recycling Styrofoam. She suggested an advisory comment written and supplied to City Council for consideration.

- 12. Council Liaison Report:** Budget cycle completed for this year. Council will review and adopt at the June 26th meeting. Levy will be implemented over the course of five years. CEP Grants were awarded; Rebuilding Washington County, Forest Grove Elks, and Nana Cardoon were awarded the \$10K grants. Hope Community Network was awarded seed money of \$30K for one year from the large CEP grant fund for her five-bedroom shelter home. It has been 14 years since the last Charter Review Committee, so Council is in the process of Charter Review Committee selection. Also, term limits of elected officials are being discussed. Hwy 47 camp clean-up is occurring and will be permanently closed by June 26, 2023. Time, Place, and Manner are on the next City Council agenda. Washington County will restore the Hwy 47 camp back to its original state. Ongoing discussion on the proposed Elm Street pods. Forest Grove residents met with Washington County and their Commissioners to discuss the lack of resources at this proposed site. A carbon-neutral project is on the horizon for the City; considering how to execute it by 2040, and options as to whether it is the entire community as a whole or just the City itself. The Historic Landmarks Board May 20th Windows Workshop was a success. This board has recently translated their brochures.
- 13. Staff Report:** Downey reported that Waste Management (WM) has a potential 2.5 % increase., which is mostly pass-through costs. With the WM Business Food Scrapes Recycling program, WM will not be increasing rates. Safeway was granted a waiver program due to the issue of meat scape disposal options.
- 14. Future Agenda Topics** for the June meeting: Food Secure Forest Grove subcommittee, the decision of the Sustainability Commission to take over the Trash Bash event (Cecelia Warner), continued work plan discussion/revision, Styrofoam recycling written recommendation to Council. The next meeting is **Thursday, June 22, 2023, at 6:00 pm.**
- 15. Adjournment:** Uecker adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m. Moved by Uecker, seconded by Barnard. Unanimous approval.

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

*Approved by the Forest Grove Sustainability
Commission Date: June 29, 2023*

