

COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 3, 2019
4:00 P.M.
THIRD FLOOR, PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE ROOM
CITY HALL

Committee Members Present: Sara Pesek (Chair), Dane Kuppinger, Rajesh Kapileshwari, Leah Lavin, Allison Bowling

Committee Members Absent: Angela Young, Amber Baker, Denise Terry, Keyra Williams, Lee Stackhouse, Stephanie Friede

Attendance of City Staff: Director of Operations Johnnie Taylor, Jennifer Chrysson, Helen Peplowski, Diane Wallace

MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sara Pesek at 4:06 p.m.

Adoption of minutes – motioned by Rajesh, seconded by Leah.

Sara then introduces the discussion of identifying goals of the committee. She begins by stating that a small group of committee members thought there are four broad areas to look into for ideas. Sara begins with the first two ideas of general collaboration with other cities and a letter to the editor about newly reinvigorated sustainability efforts. Sara turns it over to Leah and Rajesh to discuss the next goal area. The next area to consider they mentioned was a possible Duke Energy collaboration to ask for consistent reporting for updates on reaching their goal to be carbon neutral by 2050.

City staff support Helen addresses this question with information about the Cities Initiative effort that the Office of Sustainability is part of. She explains that the group of cities is already trying to work with Duke Energy to gain more data access from their billing platform, so this ask regarding the carbon neutral goal may be a future goal.

Rajesh begins by explaining that it could be beneficial for committee to see if other cities have boards like this one, and that it could be helpful to know what those groups are working on in their communities. City staff support Helen brings up example of the Raleigh Environmental Advisory Board work plan.

Sara introduces the fourth broad area is transportation. An example of a transportation goal for the committee would be to work on electrifying the bus fleet, similar to Greensboro. Sara asked about what the current makeup of the Winston-Salem Transit Authority bus fleet was in terms of non-diesel buses. Helen answered it was around 14 hybrids.

Allison adds that it would be helpful to know what the city has already done in these areas like fleet vehicles.

Sara opens the floor to other committee members to share what they are interested in having the committee work on. Dane mentions introducing a native species policy where it would require the city to slowly phase out the use of non-native species in city landscaping efforts.

Leah adds that general green infrastructure work would be good to work on. She adds that an example of this could be green roof bus shelters. This began a discussion around a design challenge that involved high schools and colleges with local architecture firms to design new bus shelters for WSTA.

Another idea was presented by Rajesh about updated the city's Tree Save Area policy to require a higher percentage of tree preservation during development projects. He also mentioned wanting to have residential development included in the policy as well.

The final minutes of the meeting were spent in a brief discussion over what the next steps should be in setting a list a goals. Allison helped clarify that by December the committee should be able to produce a deliverable to the staff support with the outline for the Fiscal Year.

Meeting adjourned at 5:07 P.M.

Bee City USA update from Jennifer Chrysson. Brief introduction of the program and current progress, looking for feedback on next step ideas. This lead to a brief discussion between several members around new programming efforts. One specific idea was to add information about ways to address "pest" bees without harming "good" bee species. Another idea related to developing lesson plans around pollinator education. Council Member Larson then commented on ways to incorporate long term environmental integration between departments to help bees, urban forestry, etc. The third idea discussed involved removing invasive species from riparian buffer areas during creek week with the help of community volunteers.