

COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM COMMITTEE (CSPC) MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 7, 2021
5:00 PM
VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

Committee Members Present: Denise Terry, Rajesh Kapileshwari, Jordan Brewster, Amber Baker, Leah Lavin, Lee Stackhouse

Committee Members Absent: Keyra Williams, Sara Pesek, Stephanie Friede

Attendance of City Staff: Helen Peplowski

Helen Peplowski, staff liaison, calls the meeting to order at 5:03.

Roll Call.

Rajesh Kapileshwari moves to approve April meeting minutes. Lee Stackhouse seconds. Committee approves meeting minutes.

Helen reviews the status of the committee's annual report.

Helen opens the floor to new business.

Denise Terry asks clarifying questions around the direction of the Green Jobs subcommittee. She also highlights a few groups and organizations in the area working in the area of green jobs and local food resilience. Helen adds that food resilience work will be under the oversight of the Office of Sustainability.

Rajesh brings awareness of a group of teenagers protesting at City Hall to further local climate action and asks how they could share comments. Helen recommends contacting her or commenting at a City Council meeting.

Rajesh suggests the Community Sustainability Program Committee become a city/county committee to help advise the County Commissioners on sustainability work. This is not a feasible option.

Rajesh shares some concerns around how the city is designating ARPA funds and the lack of funding for environmental issues. Helen clarifies that only a small portion of funding has been decided.

Rajesh recommends the need to have shovel-ready projects in preparation for any federal funding opportunities. Helen suggests this be something the committee prepares for the City Council. Lee still is interested in the idea of identifying policy recommendations for EVs as demand grows.

Rajesh would like to start proposing projects that tie into the Clean Renewable Energy Resolution from a year ago so we can meet those goals. He suggests a new ad-hoc subcommittee to do this work.

Rajesh proposes a motion to vote on the creation of a sub-committee to focus on the clean renewable energy portion of the resolution. Lee seconds the motion. Rajesh is the point of contact for that group.

Jordan Brewster asks for an overview of the existing ad-hoc subcommittees which Helen reviews.

Rajesh asks if amending the current tree ordinance the city has would fall under any Dillon's rule issues at the state level. Currently that is not the case but this tends to be a more contentious topic.

Rajesh asks if the city could partner with any large local emitters to encourage those groups to sign similar resolutions to ours though it can't be mandated. Helen says this could be included in City Council recommendations.

Rajesh asks Jordan if she is interested in joining any subcommittees. Jordan is interested in joining the newest one, as well as the Green Jobs and Equity subcommittee.

Denise wants to have a better understanding about what the Green Jobs and Equity subcommittee needs to be doing right now. She offers to reach out to the members of the subcommittee to restart the work of this group.

Rajesh asks if there are any updates from the Governor's budget proposal. Amber Baker shares that the state legislature is still working on the budget, but it is available for the public to review. Rajesh is interested to see if there is anything specifically related to equity work.

The timeline and process is reviewed for how the committee would get new members. Helen shares that Sara Pesek has stepped down as the chair of the committee. It is still being reviewed as to whether she can continue on as a general member of the committee. Helen also reviews the two vacancies in the Northwest ward and a University representative.

Helen shares updates from the Office of Sustainability.

The meeting adjourns at 6:00.