

COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM COMMITTEE (CSPC) MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 7, 2022
5:00 PM
VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

Committee Members Present: Rajesh Kapileshwari, Leah Lavin, Lee Stackhouse, Christy Robinson, Keyra Williams, Amber Baker

Committee Members Absent: Denise Terry, Stephanie Friede, Jordan Brewster

Attendance of City Staff: Helen Peplowski

Helen Peplowski, staff liaison, calls the meeting to order at 5:12 pm.

Roll Call.

Rajesh Kapileshwari moves to approve October 2021 meeting minutes. Lee Stackhouse seconds. Committee approves meeting minutes.

Helen reviews the email vote that happened in March on the motion to move forward with presenting the Resolution Supporting the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act to the Winston-Salem City Council for approval. Approval of this motion includes the understanding that edits and changes to the template can be made. Motion passed unanimously by all members of the committee.

Helen opens the floor to discussion around any changes to the resolution.

Lee asks how other cities have chosen to pass this resolution in terms of any changes they may have made. Rajesh clarifies that most other cities have passed what was presented in the initial template and speaks more to the purpose of this resolution.

Helen briefly discusses likelihood of the resolution being passed by City Council and reviews the process and expected timeline for getting the resolution passed by City Council.

Christy asks about attending City Council meetings to show support for the resolution. This is true for full City Council meetings, and Helen will verify that this is allowed for committee meetings.

Leah Lavin moves to approve the resolution in the current state. Rajesh seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Helen opens the floor to new business.

Rajesh is still looking for people who may want to join the newest subcommittee created in October 2021 related to climate change and greenhouse gas emissions to assist in achieving goals

set by Resolution #20-0499. He believes this subcommittee could also bring relevant information to members of the public. Helen provides some insight related to the resolution goals. The city operations decreased 5.7% in 2020, which shows some progress towards those goals. City Council has also included goals related to fleet electrification in the newest strategic plan.

Christy volunteers to join the newest subcommittee.

Rajesh asks how the city plans to fund the fleet electrification goals. Helen clarifies that there isn't currently funding dedicated to this goal, but it won't come from the VW Settlement funds.

Rajesh asks if the new recycling trucks the city will purchase for the in-house transition to recycling collection could be electric. Discussion follows around the new trucks.

Christy asks if the city received any money from the bipartisan infrastructure bill for sustainability related projects. Discussion follows related to the bill and related funds and how committee members may be able to assist in review of the available funds.

Rajesh speaks to some developments related to building energy codes in Minnesota. Brief discussion follows related to similar efforts North Carolina municipalities are pursuing.

Helen shares an update on food-related work. Liberty Street Urban Farmer's Market is open and progress is being made on the hydroponics project. Rajesh asks if there is already a committee for food resilience. Helen shares information on the Urban Food Policy Council and a discussion follows about their work.

Amber Baker asks for more information on the hydroponics project. Helen says the rough opening will likely be in the summer. A discussion follows around this site and the plans for it.

Leah asks about the status of the all the subcommittees. Since they were all ad-hoc subcommittees, Helen shares it would only take a motion to close any of the subcommittees if members don't want to participate further. Discussion follows around which subcommittees may still be of interest to members.

Christy asks if the committee is connected to the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school system. Helen clarifies that there is no connection to the school system in terms of the committee holding authority for their work.

Keyra speaks to the purpose of the Tree Canopy Subcommittee upon request from Christy. Members are supportive of continuing this subcommittee. Discussion follows related to the possible direction and work of this subcommittee.

Amber shares that she toured a local certified passive [energy] house as an example of possible solutions to address the issues the committee works on.

Leah moves to adjourn. Lee seconds. Meeting adjourns at 6:03 pm.