

COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 2, 2022  
5:00 P.M.  
VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

**Committee Members Present:** Rajesh Kapileshwari, Leah Lavin, Christy Robinson, Lee Stackhouse, Jordan Brewster, Amber Baker

**Committee Members Absent:** Denise Terry

**Attendance of City Staff:** Helen Peplowski

**MINUTES:**

The meeting was called to order by Helen Peplowski, city staff, in absence of a chair at 5:06.

Roll call was taken.

Rajesh Kapileshwari moves to pass April minutes, Leah Lavin seconds. April minutes pass unanimously.

Helen provides an update on the process for passing the Resolution [Urging the United States Congress to Enact the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2021]. It was passed during the May 10 Community Development/Housing/General Government Committee then went to the May 16 City Council meeting. Council Member Clark called for ‘no consideration’ on the item preventing a vote. It will be voted on during the June 6 City Council meeting. A brief discussion follows related to the ‘no consideration’ choice.

Helen shares the city was awarded a Silver Certification in the LEED for Cities program. The point breakdown by category is available on the city’s website.

Rajesh provides an update from the sustainability roundtable event hosted by PEA [Piedmont Environmental Alliance]. A discussion follows regarding the scope of that work, and potential future steps for these roundtables and other sustainability gatherings. Helen also shares information on the city perspective relevant to the discussion, specifically related to the city’s strategic plan and comprehensive planning efforts.

Christy Robinson asks if the city has received money from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and any plans the city has as to how to use that money. A discussion follows about when the funding is expected to be available, how the city plans to use the money, and disbursement details.

Rajesh asks a follow-up question about city planning efforts. Helen clarifies the differences between the strategic plan and comprehensive plan, but the approach for the next comprehensive plan update is still being worked out.

Leah asks if the city meets with Duke Energy. Helen gives some information on the Cities Initiative group which leads efforts to communicate with Duke Energy. A discussion follows related to the goals and plans of Duke Energy.

Christy asks for clarification around how the subcommittees work. Helen explains that all of the subcommittees are ad-hoc and logistics of meeting as a subcommittee. Helen recommends a vote to end the Recycling subcommittee. Leah seconds the motion, and the committee unanimously passes to close that subcommittee. The group decides to not vote on the other subcommittees and discussed potential focuses for certain subcommittees.

Rajesh asks for an update related to membership. Helen expects at least one appointment shortly, but there are currently four open seats: two local university/college representative seats, Northeast Ward, and the chair. The university and chair positions can be filled by any city resident (i.e., not ward-based appointments).

Rajesh mentions he will look to get a summary from the PEA roundtable to share with the group. Christy agrees that it would be good to continue forming partnerships, and Representative Baker recommends other local groups for partnership or to fill in committee membership.

Christy asks about meeting in person again, and Helen lets members know she will inform them of any changes or updates to these restrictions.

Rajesh moves to adjourn, Lee Stackhouse seconds. Meeting adjourns at 6:00 pm.