



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff Sustainability Commission

Wednesday, March 12, 2014
4:00 – 6:00 pm

City Hall, Staff Conference Room
211 West Aspen Avenue, Flagstaff, Arizona

A quorum of the Flagstaff City Council may be in attendance of the Sustainability Commission meeting.



In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact 928-213-2106. Notification at least 48 hours in advance will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements.

CALL TO ORDER

ATTENDING COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Kathy Farretta, Chair
Todd Barnell, Vice-Chair
Elisha Dorfsmith
Jodi Norris
Kevin Ordean
Jeffery Stevenson
Jack Welch

CITY STAFF:

Nicole Woodman
Tamara Lawless
Nicole Denering
Marty Jacobson
McKenzie Jones

1. Call to Order

Commission Chair Kathy Farretta called the March Sustainability Commission Meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

2. Public Participation

At this time, any member of the public may address the Commission on any subject that is not scheduled before the Commission on that day. The Arizona Open Meeting Law prohibits the Commission from discussing or taking action on an item which is criticism made by those addressing the Commission, ask staff to review a matter, or ask that a matter be placed on a future agenda. To address the Commission on an item that is on the agenda, please wait for the Chair to call for Public Comment at the time the item is heard.

3. Approval of Minutes

Todd Barnell moved to approve the February minutes and Elisha Dorfsmith seconded.

4. Discussion Items

A. Heath For All – Michelle Thomas

Michelle Thomas from North Country HealthCare returned to answer questions on “health in all policies,” which advocates for the inclusion of health considerations into all policy. Michelle stated her current goals are to provide education to as many groups as possible on the Health for All initiative and to encourage groups to draft letters of support to include

March 12, 2014

health in all policies. This initiative was launched in 2010 in the U.S. and is practiced in King County, WA and throughout California, and in the European Union, Finland, and South Australia as well. There are no tracking mechanisms or quantifiable data in place as of present in the U.S. Examples of policies include open spaces and complete streets, which are covered in the new Regional Plan. As the City is updating the Municipal Sustainability Plan, it was proposed to include aspects of health in all policies in the new draft as well as in the Sustainability Matrix used in City decision-making. Commissioner Barnell suggested incorporating Health for All into Commission discussions and focus areas.

B. Plastic Bags – All

Commissioners reviewed options for a plastic bag ban or tax/voluntary use fee. Nicole Woodman and Marty Jacobson provided information on other states and cities that have addressed plastic bags: the most successful approach being to ban plastic bags and charge a small fee for paper bags which would go back to the store. Nicole Woodman also shared Safeway is in favor of a plastic bag ban. Commissioners discussed alternatives to a ban, such as a tax/voluntary use fee, which could leave the decision to use plastic bags up to the consumer, but may be a deterrent to many as it would be an additional tax to pay. Commissioner Barnell suggested if the Commission moved forward with the ban, educational emphasis should focus on the idea that plastic bags add to litter and make our community unattractive.

5. Action Items

A. Plastic Bags

Commissioner Stevenson made a motion for the Commission to pursue an ordinance to ban end-use plastic bags in Flagstaff. Commissioner Welch seconded. The motion carried. The motion passed 5 – 2. Commissioners Ordean and Dorsmith voted against the motion.

6. To and From

Nicole Woodman announced the Sustainability Program received a \$40,000 grant from the Urban Sustainability Directors Network and Western Adaptation Alliance to move forward with a study to understand the impact on organizations as related to climate change. This study will be used as an educational tool to embed adaptation into future planning. Tamara Lawless provided an update on Lights Out Flagstaff and will send a promotional flyer to Commissioners. Marty Jacobson invited Commissioners to the City Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 19 on the City Hall front lawn. Commissioner Norris invited Commissioners to attend the next Environmental Caucus meeting at NAU in the ARD large pod and to look into a free course called “Turning Down the Heat.” Commissioner Ordean announced the Better World Film Series at NAU on Wednesdays at 7pm at the Franke College of Business. Commissioner Welch applauded Nicole Woodman for her presentation to Council on the sustainable building resolution, which passed unanimously. He also shared he will be hosting a walk from Lowell Observatory on Saturday, March 29, during Lights Out Flagstaff and Earth Hour.

7. Agenda Items for Next Month

8. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Elisha Dorfsmith; Todd Barnell seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 6:03 pm.