



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff Sustainability Commission

Wednesday, May 14, 2014
4:30 – 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 Faretta, Chair
Todd Barnell, Vice Chair
Elisha Dorfsmith
Jodi Norris
Kevin Ordean
Jeff Stevenson
Jack Welch

CITY STAFF:

Nicole Woodman
Tamara Lawless
Nicole Denering
Marty Jacobson

1. Call to Order

Commission Chair Kathy Farretta called the May Sustainability Commission Meeting to order at 4:32 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

Jack Welch moved to approve the April minutes and Kevin Ordean seconded the motion.

4. Presentation Items

A. Regional Plan- Jennifer Mikelson

Jennifer reminded Commissioners the last day to vote for the Regional Plan is May 20. More information on the Regional Plan can be found at flagstaffmatters.org. Flagstaff residents can vote in person at the County building on Cherry Ave. or mail in ballots. Council has adopted the Regional Plan; the citizens must vote to ratify the document.

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5. Discussion Items

A. Plastic Bags- All

The Commission discussed the plastic bag ban ordinances they reviewed and what could work well in Flagstaff. Commissioners agreed the Barrington, Rhode Island ordinance was well-crafted and succinct and could be used as a model for the Flagstaff ordinance banning plastic bags. Tying the ban to litter was of main concern, especially as the litter is unsightly to the community and that plastic bags constitute 80% of the litter that flies out of the landfill. Commissioners also discussed the option of charging a fee for paper bags. Commissioner Ordean suggested using funds generated from the paper bag fee to clean up litter in the community. The idea of providing three options to Council in the staff summary for the ordinance was discussed. Options could include: A. Status quo; B. Ban plastic, no fee on paper; C. Ban plastic, create fee for paper bags. Once these options are solidified, the Chamber of Commerce will send out a survey to businesses to gauge opinions on a potential ban. Commissioners also discussed the idea of creating a ten cent fee for paper bags as that is the threshold for a more impactful program according to other cities' experiences. Commissioner Stevenson suggested providing a summary of best practices to Council with the proposed ordinance. Commissioners then went through the Barrington ordinance and suggested changes in order to relate the code to Flagstaff and discussed possibilities to include restaurants and small retail establishments in the ban and what the threshold for bag thickness would be.

D. Strategic Planning – All

This item was tabled for the June meeting.

5. Action Items

A. Plastic Bags

Commissioner Ordean made a motion for staff to move forward with bringing suggested changes to the draft plastic bag ordinance and to work with legal on enforcement options. Commissioner Norris seconded. The motion carried 6-1. Commissioner Dorfsmith voted against the motion.

B. March minutes

Commissioner Ordean moved to amend the March minutes to indicate which Commissioners voted for and against the Commission moving forward with a plastic bag ban ordinance. Commissioner Dorfsmith seconded. The motion carried.

6. To and From

Nicole Woodman invited the Commission to the June 10th City Council meeting at 6 pm as she will be presenting the 2013 Year in Review for the Sustainability Program. Commissioner Welch reminded all that Bike to Work Week is May 18-14 and to bike to breakfast on that Wednesday morning.

7. Agenda Items for Next Month

8. Adjournment

Commission Chair Faretta adjourned the meeting at 6:01 pm.