



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff Sustainability Commission

Wednesday, September 17, 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 928-213-2100. Notification at least 48 hours in advance will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements.

CALL TO ORDER

COMMISSION MEMBERS:	CITY STAFF:
Todd Barnell, Vice Chair	Nicole Woodman
Jeff Stevenson	Tamara Lawless
Elisha Dorfsmith	
Jodi Norris	
Kevin Ordean	
Jack Welch	

1. Call to Order

Commission Vice Chair Todd Barnell called the September Sustainability Commission meeting to order at 4:34 pm 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 not listed on the prepared agenda. Commission members may, however, respond to 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

Commission member Elisha Dorfsmith motioned to approve the August minutes and Vice Chair Todd Barnell seconded the motion.

4. Presentation Items

A. Arizona Recycling Coalition – Lucy Morales

Lucy Morales from Arizona Recycling Coalition provided an overview of the organization for the Commission. ARC is a non-profit with 20 years of recycling activism around Arizona. They offer scholarships for Arizona college students studying environmental issues. On October 14th they will be receiving grant applications for \$5000 grants focused on landfill diversion. The statewide recycling fund, which is similar to HURF funds, has reached 2.5 million dollars, and has the potential to be released to communities. ARC is utilizing lobbyists to advocate for the appropriation of these funds.

B. Resiliency – Tamara Lawless

Sustainability Specialist Tamara Lawless lead the commission through the first stage of a community resiliency exercise. There was an initial overview of the projected changes to Flagstaff's climate in coming years, including increased forest fire potential, reduced snowpack, and regional flooding. The commission's task for the evening was to select their priority areas for community resiliency. The first topic of discussion was the Flagstaff food system. In a crisis, the in-store shelf supply is inadequate for more than a few days. In addition, climate change may be introducing new pests to the area, which may have impacts on local food production. The same concerns for limited supply were applied to fuel, water, and medicine as well. The next topic area was on the role of individual preparedness during crises. The group discussed the need for more detailed emergency management plans to provide a framework for action and support after disaster events. There was also concern over the potential loss of digital communication if cell phone towers, telephone lines, or internet cables were damaged or destroyed. The next topic area was the economic impacts of climate change. The group discussed the potential for tourism patterns to change with the climate. Changes in tourism may lead to changes in government revenues, which may impact services for the public. In addition, the changing climate may lead to the emergence of significant numbers of "climate refugees" in the Flagstaff area, escaping the heat. There were also concerns about the impacts of climate change on community infrastructure. Changes to building standards and codes to incorporate resiliency was suggested. In addition, the potential for smart grids and distributed solar to increase the energy resilience of the community was discussed. Other topics that were added to the list for consideration included the psychological impacts of climate change, resource demands from communities near Flagstaff, and the resilience of the Ponderosa Pine ecosystem.

5. Discussion Items

A. Plastic Bag Outreach – Nicole Woodman

Nicole Woodman provided an update on plastic bag outreach. Five locations are being considered for reusable bag banks: both libraries, Hotel Monte Vista, the Downtown Shops, and the Visitor's Bureau. Commission member Jack Welch volunteered to assist with further plastic bag outreach.

6. Action Items

A. Micro-grant Program – All

Commission member Kevin Ordean made a motion to move forward with the micro-grant program, with an initial fund of \$5000 from the Sustainability Program budget. Vice Chair Todd Barnell seconded the motion, and the Commission voted to approve.

7. To and From

8. Agenda Items for Next Month

A. City Manager to discuss Prop 406

B. Part Two of Community Resiliency Exercise

9. Adjournment

Commission Vice Chair Todd Barnell adjourned the meeting at 6:01 pm.

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING OF NOTICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing notice was duly posted at Flagstaff City Hall on _____, at _____ a.m./p.m. in accordance with the statement filed by the Disability Awareness Commission with the City Clerk.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2014.

Chris Monteverde, Administrative Specialist