



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff Sustainability Commission

Wednesday, August 12, 2015
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:

Todd Barnell, Chair
Elisha Dorfsmith, Vice Chair
Jodi Norris
Kevin Ordean
Ellen Vaughan
Jack Welch

STAFF LIAISON:

Tamara Lawless, Sustainability Specialist
Nicole Woodman, Sustainability Manager

1. **Call to Order**
Chair Commissioner, Todd Barnell called the meeting to order at 4:28 pm.
2. **Public Participation**
There was no public participation.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
Elisha Dorfsmith motioned to approve the July 2015 minutes and Kevin Ordean seconded the motion.
4. **Discussion Items**
 - A. **Animal Keeping Code Draft Presentation – McKenzie Jones**
Sustainability Specialist, McKenzie Jones updated the commission on the history and current state of the draft Flagstaff Animal Keeping Code. The goal of this code is to support sustainable agriculture, reduce neighborhood nuisance and

reduce environmental impact of animals on the land. The current code is a single page that has not been updated in decades. The proposed changes include details on bee keeping, chicken keeping, large livestock and small livestock. The draft clarifies how far each animal can be from a property line, what kinds of amenities should be provided and the number of animals certain lot sizes can support. McKenzie Jones organized an open house in July and received feedback from the public that was then incorporated in to the current draft. The commission had questions about bees and some wording in the draft. Jodi voiced a concern about animal impact on the land. Commission had questions about similarities between our code and the county's code. All commission members voted in favor of supporting the draft for its September 8th presentation to council.

B. Sustainability Commission Scheduling – Tamara Lawless

Tamara Lawless facilitated a discussion to decide on a new meeting time in a room where live streaming can occur. Due to scheduling conflicts, the commission will wait to see if another Wednesday commission will choose a different day, and if not, the most common day for all commission members would be a Monday. The commission has decided to pick a time without waiting for new commission members. Todd Barnell announced that he will be stepping down from his position on the committee.

C. Community Stewards / Adopt-A Programming – Jack Welch

Jack Welch asked to postpone this agenda item until the September meeting.

D. Acceptance and Rejection Letters for Grants – All

Ellen Vaughan updated the commission on the Green Fund acceptance and rejection letters that she had made edits to for their use with the Neighborhood Sustainability Grant. The commission approved the use of this draft for official grant acceptance and rejection once it is put on a City of Flagstaff letterhead. Tamara Lawless will make the edits and be in charge of sending all acceptance and rejection letters.

E. Plastic Bag Update – Nicole Woodman

Nicole Woodman updated the commission on the current state of plastic bags in Flagstaff. She will be going to council on September 8th to provide an informative update to council about management plans for plastic bags. Three management options will be presented to council. The first is filing a lawsuit against the state of Arizona is not recommended at this time. The second is a city wide plastic bag recycling program. This option is not recommended because of its cost and feasibility. The third option is to continue the voluntary recycling program. Nicole then updated the commission on the more pressing issue of City money paid yearly to Norton Environmental for a lack of recyclables. Over the past three years the City has paid Norton \$674,831 because we have not met our goals as outlined in our contract. Nicole will suggest to council that we increase our current spending on recycling outreach from .25 cents per person to \$1.00 per person. Kevin suggests sitting down with Waste Management to see if they could drop their recyclables at Norton. The City also receives a revenue share when materials are sold which will be presented at the upcoming council presentation.

5. Action Items

A. Animal Keeping Code Endorsement Decision

The Commission endorsed the current draft of the Animal Keeping Code.

B. CSA and Radon Testing Grant Decisions - All

Commissioner Ordean recused himself for the decisions regarding the Neighborhood Sustainability Grants. Due to a lack of response from the CSA, commission questions about their grant proposal have still not been answered. Elisha moves to reject the CSA grant which is seconded by Jack and approved by all. Ellen will write the rejection letter, send it out to the commission for approval and Tamara will distribute it. Tamara will bcc or forward the email to the commission. Elisha moves to reject the radon proposal and Jack seconds it. It was approved by all.

6. To and From

Nicole encourages the commission to come to the next meeting a bit earlier to get oriented to the new set up in council chambers. Tamara updated the commission on language for official recusal from the grant decision process. The correct language is: “efforts in which commissioners are remotely involved shall not require removal”. Ellen is working to get bees on NAU campus and invites the commission to attend a meeting on NAU campus. Citizen Climate Lobby will be tabling at a climate change talk Thursday the 13th at NAU. They are hoping to bring a resolution to council. Jack gave a quick update that the Bicycle Advisor Committee has not decided on what kinds of bikes racks they want to see in Heritage Square. Nicole updated the commission on the appointment of Betsy Emery as the Open Space Specialist for the Sustainability Program. Nicole would like to come back to the commission in the fall to update them about the open space program. Jodi updated the commission on the BAC meeting that discussed a high density community that is being rezoned in favor of lower density. Jodi attended the water commission meeting and updated the Commission on rate schedule and the tires. The Water Commission is not considering stronger pushes to conserve water.

7. Agenda Items for Next Month

- A. Community Stewards / Adopt-A Programming – Jack Welch and Martin Johnson
- B. Revisit Strategic Plan - All
- C. Review Sustainability Grant Submissions

8. Adjournment

Jodi Norris motioned to adjure the meeting at 6:01 pm and Elisha Dorfsmith seconded the motion.