



# MINUTES

## City of Flagstaff Sustainability Commission

Monday, November 23, 2015  
4:30 – 6:00 pm

City Hall, Council Chambers  
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:

Elisha Dorfsmith, Chair

Kevin Ordean, Vice Chair

Amelia Blake

Dara Marks-Marino

#### STAFF LIAISON:

Tamara Lawless, Sustainability Specialist

Nicole Woodman, Sustainability Manager

#### **1. Call to order**

Commission Chair Dorfsmith called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

#### **2. Roll Call**

Commissioners Blake, Dorfsmith, Marks-Marino and Ordean were present for roll call. Commissioners Chamberlain, Kistler, and Vaughan were absent.

#### **3. Public Participation**

Flagstaff resident Jack Welch advised the Sustainability Commission not to get involved with issues that the transportation commission is already addressing. Instead, he suggested the commission get more involved with the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committees.

#### **4. Approval of Minutes**

Commission Chair Dorfsmith motioned to approve the October 2015 minutes and Commissioner Vice-chair Ordean seconded the motion. All commissioners voted in favor.

#### **5. Discussion**

##### **A. Recycling Presentation**

Sustainability Specialist McKenzie Jones presented on current recycling initiatives in Flagstaff. Her programming aims to increase recycling outreach and education in the community and to assist in the improvement of recycling infrastructure where possible. Ms. Jones also mentioned

the development of a zero waste plan, which has been proposed in response to the eventual closure of the Flagstaff landfill around 2050. After Ms. Jones informed the commissioners that only \$0.25 is spent annually per Flagstaff resident on recycling outreach and education, Vice-chair Ordean suggested that additional recycling education has the potential to pay for itself if it increases recyclable tonnage enough to mitigate fees the City of Flagstaff gets charged for not fulfilling its contract with Norton Environmental.

### **B. Regional Plan Update**

Comprehensive Planning Manager Sarah Dechter provided the commission with an update on the Regional Plan. Sustainability principles have been incorporated into the plan both in its original format and in the proposed revisions. When asked about how the competing plans adopted by the City of Flagstaff and Coconino County will be managed, Ms. Dechter informed the commission that the two plans are divergent paths and no future coordination is anticipated.

### **C. Citizens' Climate Lobby Presentation**

Claire Herrick and John Deuel from the Citizens' Climate Lobby provided background information on a proposed City of Flagstaff resolution urging the US Congress to pass carbon fee and dividend legislation. The proposed fee on carbon dioxide emissions would be returned to US households as a dividend. The Citizens' Climate Lobby is asking for the Sustainability Commission to lend its support for the resolution.

### **D. Plastic Bag Update**

Sustainability Manager Nicole Woodman informed the commission that Councilmember Coral Evans asked for the plastic bag-ban topic to be revisited during the next city council meeting in December. This renewed interest in the issue is in response to Tempe Councilmember Lauren Kuby's pending lawsuit against the state of Arizona in response to Senate Bill 1241. A representative from the Sustainability Commission will be asked to review the commission's recommendation to council on the plastic bag issue at the January 12<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

## **6. Actions Items**

### **A. Energy Rebate Memo Support Decision**

Commissioners discussed the Sustainability Section's request for additional funding for the Energy Rebate Program. Chair Dorfsmith questioned whether the \$5,000 in grant monies that are earmarked for the Neighborhood Sustainability Grants Program weakens the case for additional funding for other initiatives. Vice-chair Ordean asked if \$15,000 is sufficient funding for the program, to which Sustainability Specialist Tamara Lawless informed the commission that it would be a significant reduction from previous years but would still make a difference for the community. Vice-chair Ordean motioned to lend the commission's support to the request and Commissioner Marks-Marino seconded the motion. All commissioners voted in favor.

## **7. To and From**

Chair Dorfsmith informed the commission that the Animal Keeping Code dialogue has been pushed back on the City Council agenda for several more months.

## **8. Agenda Items for Next Month**

### **A. Talking points for plastic bag presentation to council**

### **B. Citizens' Climate Lobby resolution support decision**

**9. Adjournment**

Chair Dorfsmith adjourned the meeting at 6:26pm.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Monteverde, Administrative Specialist