

MINUTES

CITY OF FLAGSTAFF
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM
2ND FLOOR, CITY HALL

THURSDAY

211 WEST ASPEN AVENUE

DECEMBER 5, 2019

4:30 – 6:30 PM

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair McCain called the meeting of the Sustainability Commission held December 5th, 2019, to order at 4:32pm.

2. Roll Call

Chair Petersen

Commissioner Guzman

Vice Chair McCain

Commissioner Marks Marino

Commissioner Chamberlain

Commissioner White

Others present: Jenny Niemann (Staff Liaison), Lisa Clark (Minutes), Austin Aslan (Councilmember)

3. Public Comment

Public Participation enables the public to address the Commission on any subject within their jurisdiction that is not scheduled before the Commission on that day. Due to Open Meeting Laws, the Commission cannot discuss or act on items presented during this portion of the 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.

No public comment

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Guzman to approve the October 24th, 2019, minutes.

Vote: 4 – 0 Unanimously passed

5. Business

A. Southside Community Plan (45 minutes)

Carlton Johnson, Associate Planner, Comprehensive Planning, City of Flagstaff
Requested Action: Information and discussion

Mr. Johnson reviewed the Southside Community Plan for the Commission. This first draft was started in fall of 2017 and was created with input from the neighborhood and a

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stakeholder group with about 10 people. At Vice Chair McCain's request, Mr. Johnson explained that the stakeholder group included residents, property and business owners, university and family connections, and property managers. The 60-day public review is now in effect to gather information on gaps in the plan, generate alternatives, prioritize strategies, find flaws in the current plan, and hear from as many people as possible. These public comments must be submitted to Sara Dechter by February 4, 2019.

Vice Chair McCain asked about the purpose of the plan, and Mr. Johnson explained that it will inform city projects and discretionary development as well as changes to zoning, codes, and standards in Southside.

Mr. Johnson reviewed the following parts of the plan relevant to the Sustainability Commission:

- Heritage preservation: This part of the plan proposes splitting Southside into multiple districts to allow for different rules in each area to concentrate efforts. Commissioner White asked whether rent control was being considered as well, and Tiffany Antol (City Real Estate Planning Director) explained that property owners would only be able to add rent control for about five properties a year funded by a 10% match on money spent on historic preservation. As that number is so small, it is not included in this plan.
- Growth and change: Compatibility of character with new buildings would be ensured. Additionally, a new zone would be created in the northeast section to increase the residential potential while maintaining the industrial jobs in that area, transitioning to a "light industrial" zone. This area is not owned by the City, so anyone can build there if they own the property. Commissioner Marks Marino asked for clarification on light industrial zones. These areas have a mix of residential, commercial, and industrial aspects, such as having a retail area in the front of a building and production in the back of that same building.
- Parking: This includes existing parking management and shared parking facilities.
- Alternative transportation: The plan includes suggested improvements for bicycle and pedestrian safety and better connectivity for bikes.
- Flooding and emergencies: This section is focused on resolving flooding hazards, as most of Southside is within the 100-year floodplain (1% change of flooding every year based on historic precipitation levels).

Vice Chair McCain asked about whether the addition of parks in Southside were included in the plan. Mr. Johnson explained that there were many options for small parks in Southside, and Parks and Recreation was heavily involved in drafting the plan.

Commissioner White asked whether there were any specific strategies in the plan to prevent gentrification, and was assured that almost everything in the plan addresses this issue.

Councilmember Aslan inquired about how the Army Corps of Engineers flood control project might impact the plan, particularly with fees for residents (i.e., mandatory flood

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insurance). Ms. Antol assured him that this Southside plan is important as many property owners would be able to redevelop if the flood control project is implemented. The stakeholders did support the removal of the floodplain from Southside. Mr. Johnson also pointed out that some of the parks and other aspects of the plan would not be possible if the flood control project does not happen.

Mr. Johnson invited the Commissioners to come to the public hearings on the Southside Community Plan and the following City Council meetings. Commissioners will send additional comments directly to Sara Dechter.

B. Animal Keeping Code Update (15 minutes)

Dylan Lenzen, Sustainability Specialist, City of Flagstaff
Requested Action: Information and discussion

Mr. Lenzen gave a brief update on the current status of the animal keeping code changes. City Council adopted the revisions a couple of weeks ago, the Sustainability Section will begin public outreach on the changes in winter and spring of 2020, and the code will be adopted in May 2020.

Some of the changes include incorporating a free and streamlined permitting system, compiling a video with best practices for animal keeping, updated shelter requirements (e.g., no less than 10 feet from property lines next to another lot), and requirements for location of feed and watering troughs and yard maintenance for odor mitigation. Additional changes such as site inspections, limits on the total number of animals, and covered animal run requirements were discussed but not included in the code revisions.

The Sustainability Section will be responsible for public outreach and permits (issuing and revoking), but Code Compliance and Animal Control will respond to questions and complaints.

Currently, Mr. Lenzen is working on finalizing the outreach approach to include direct and digital outreach and workshops.

C. Climate Emergency Declaration (20 minutes)

Sara Kubisty and Emily Kate Copenhaver
Requested Action: Information and discussion, vote

Ms. Kubisty (student at Northern Arizona University) and Ms. Copenhaver (Elizabeth Warren campaign) read through the Climate Emergency Declaration and asked for feedback and support from the Commission. A petition was signed by 250 people, leading to a resolution, and this declaration will be going to City Council on January 28th.

Councilmember Aslan requested a copy of the declaration to read through more thoughtfully and give comments on later as many of the statements are strong and may not be palatable to City Council. He also suggested the term “just transition” be defined

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more clearly in the declaration as it is an unfamiliar term and City Council will want to know in detail what the possible ramifications might be.

The Commissioners suggested minor edits to add clarity. Ms. Copenhaver asked whether a section needed to be added to address both adaptation and mitigation, and Commissioner Marks Marino highlighted an existing area where this could be incorporated.

Commissioner White asked about the potential legal ramifications or commitments that might result from the declaration. Ms. Antonopoulos explained that as the declaration came from a resolution, it is non-binding but is intended to hold the City's commitment.

Councilmember Aslan recommended adding examples specific to Flagstaff. Ms. Antonopoulos will send the Flagstaff Climate Profile with these examples to Ms. Kubisty and Ms. Copenhaver.

Moved by Commissioner Marks Marino, seconded by Commissioner Guzman to endorse the adoption of this resolution with the revisions suggested by the Sustainability Commission.

Vote: 4 – 0 Unanimously passed

D. Neighborhood Sustainability Grants: FY20 awards part two (5 minutes)

Lisa Clark

Requested Action: Information and discussion

Ms. Clark (Neighborhood Sustainability Grant Liaison) briefly presented a proposed timeline to award the remaining \$3100 in Water Conservation grants. Advertising will begin on December 11th, and the applications will be open from January 6th to February 6th. The Commissioners will be able to review the applications starting February 13th, and the final review and presentations will be February 27th with the reward date on March 6th. The Commission agreed to this timeline.

E. Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Annual Update (25 minutes)

Jenny Niemann, Climate and Energy Specialist, City of Flagstaff

Requested Action: Information and discussion

Ms. Niemann gave the highlights of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) annual update given to City Council. This past year, the focus has been on the implementation strategy including joining the Global Covenant of Mayors and lining out 150 actions for the CAAP implementation. There have been many internal meetings to develop shared language and support staff training, and there will be two new climate positions starting in FY19-20 (one full-time and one part-time).

Other efforts have included training 72 Climate Ambassadors, the Youth Climate Summit, creating a dashboard to track progress on action items, updating building codes, operationalizing equity (e.g., leadership training, equity-focused communications),

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launching the Housing Commission, increasing collaboration between Community Development and Sustainability, and starting the composting pilot program with NAU.

In 2020, the focus will be on the following:

- Organizational integration including a City Manager Roundtable with division directors, the formation of a climate action committee and working groups, and climate mitigation and adaptation analysis as part of the FY20-21 budget process.
- Community resiliency including the neighborhood resilience groups, regional collaboration, the Sustainability Leaders program, and a clean air hub pilot program.
- Operationalizing equity.
- Mitigation-adaptation-equity nexus, using a climate lens to analyze current and new programs.
- Data-driven approach.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 1.5 degree report was released just after the CAAP was passed as mitigation efforts have not been moving fast enough. Thus, greater action and more ambitious targets are needed.

F. Working Groups report to Commission (5 minutes)

Requested Action: Information and discussion

The Zero Waste Working Group met for the first time. The name was changed to “Rethink Waste”, and they are currently reviewing the new Rethink Waste strategic plan and will be meeting monthly.

The Transportation Working Group has not met yet.

The Community Resilience Working Group met with Jillian Goulet (Community Resilience VISTA) and are currently waiting for a handbook from her to move forward.

6. To and From (5 Minutes) – All

Matt Muchna (NAU Sustainability Manager) will be coming to all Sustainability Commission meetings. NAU is currently looking for a consultant to calculate the current state and needs of NAU Sustainability. Mr. Muchna invited the Commissioners to come to a meeting on Wednesday, December 11th, from 8-9:15am in the Applied Research and Development building. Mr. Muchna expressed the hope that a designated Commission representative will be able to attend each of these meetings, which will be held on the second Wednesday of each month at the same time.

The terms of Chair Petersen and Commissioner Chamberlain both expired. Commissioner Chamberlain was reappointed, but Chair Petersen was not. There will be two new

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Commissioners at the next meeting, and there will be an election for Chair at the January meeting.

Vice Chair McCain reflected on Chair Petersen leaving the Sustainability Commission. He expressed that this choice by City Council does not serve the City well and the Commission was struck a blow to lose such a committed Commissioner. Chair Petersen raised the bar for the Commission and challenged the other Commissioners and staff to do more for Sustainability, and is one of the top experts on climate change and sustainability in Flagstaff. Vice Chair McCain urged the Commission to commit to continue the path Chair Petersen was laying out for the Commission.

7. Future Agenda Item Requests

NONE

8. Adjournment

The meeting of the Sustainability Commission on December 5th, 2019, adjourned at 6:35pm.

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. This notice has been posted on the City's website and can be downloaded at www.flagstaff.az.gov.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2019.

Jenny Niemann, Sustainability Commission Staff Liaison