

HOLLAND COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

February 19, 2018

Call to Order –

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Jerry Tonini.

Roll Call –

Members Present: Jerry Tonini, Carolyn Ulstad, Bob Johnston, Dan Robertson, Jeff Raywood, Holland-Hope College Sustainability Institute Representative Michelle Gibbs, City Council Representative Wayne Klomparens, Student Representatives Josh Laux and Jackson Maktheva, Staff Liaisons Aaron Thelenwood and Andrew Reynolds

Absent: Greg Lam, Colleen Nagel, Makayla Putnam, HBPW Board Representative Diane Haworth

Other: Kyle DeBruyn, Anne Saliers (HBPW), Ken Freestone (COH)

Approval of Minutes –

The January meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Johnston, with support by Raywood, to approve the minutes. The motion passed 5-0.

Public Comment –

Ken Freestone is the Residential Energy Advisor for the City of Holland. He spoke briefly to the group about the Home Energy Retrofit (HER) and On-Bill Financing programs available to City residents. Free energy audits are available from select local contractors and are a required prerequisite for participation in either the HER or On-Bill programs.

Election of Officers –

Robertson nominated Tonini for the position of Committee Chair (second by Raywood). Johnston nominated Lam for Committee Vice-Chair (second by Tonini). Hearing no other nominations, the committee voted to approve Tonini for the position of Chair and Lam for the position of Vice-Chair, 5-0.

Open Discussion –

Raywood informed the group that the free electric vehicle charging stations around the City will likely soon be shifting to pay-for-use. Saliers added that HBPW is revising its charging station policy so that the businesses owners would have responsibility for ongoing maintenance, since many of the stations are nearing the point of replacement. Saliers also noted that HBPW is planning to add residential customer rebates (\$300) for installing vehicle charging stations. Raywood let the group know that the Michigan Public Service Commission is hosting an event about plug-in electric vehicles later in February.

Raywood also related that he had recently learned that some trucking companies are able to put old engines into new trucks to avoid certain pollution regulations and emit up to 40 times more than they should.

Gibbs passed out a flyer advertising an upcoming lecture at Hope on the topic of “The Psychology of Caring for Creation: Climate Change and Climate Justice” by Dr. Janet K. Swim from Penn State University. The lecture will be held March 6 at 4:30 at Graves Hall.

Thelenwood reported that Mark Vanderploeg has been discussing with HBPW the options for achieving

100% renewable energy for City buildings, snow melt, and traffic lights (street lights are also under consideration). This could be accomplished by paying a premium rate as part of HBPW's Elective Renewable Energy program. Initial estimates are that it would cost the City about \$40,000 per year to purchase 85% elective renewable energy (15% is already part of the existing portfolio mix for all customers). Tonini and Johnston both pointed out that, while it is a very important goal, the City's current budget shortfall makes the immediate adoption unlikely. Gibbs suggested the City could set a goal along the lines of "100% renewable by 2020" that would hopefully give the City time to recover from the immediate budget concerns. Thelenwood will present more details at the March SusCom meeting.

SusCom Meeting Schedule–

Reynolds presented the results of an online survey sent to all Committee members asking them to rank their preferred day of the week to hold meetings. Mondays and Tuesdays received a nearly equal share of votes for the most preferred day. Since there was not a clear consensus that a new day would be better than Mondays, the meeting date will remain on Mondays for now.

SusCom Update to HBPW Board and City Council–

The group reviewed the summary slides from each sub-committee that will be compiled into a presentation for the interim City Manager and the City leadership team on March 8. Tonini will place the final version of the presentation on Dropbox for all members to review at their convenience.

Framework Next Steps–

Tonini reminded the group that the initial trial period for the Framework has expired. The goal was to be able to present Council will recommendations for the Framework's permanent adoption along with and changes/updates that were suggested based on its use during the trial period. However, since the Civic Center was the only project that formally completed the Framework, not enough feedback has been collected to make these recommendations to Council. Tonini suggested we request a one-year extension on the trial period. Other members expressed a concern that we need to find a way to ensure that the Framework gets in front of Council (and that if it doesn't they are asking about it).

Committee Reports –

- Holland-Hope College Sustainability Institute – Gibbs, Tonini, and Andy Kenyon are working with City GIS staff and professors at Hope to get the tree canopy research project established; student applications are being reviewed now. Last week Hope held its first Recycle Mania event at a men's basketball game. It was a big success, and even with over 3,300 people in attendance, only one bag of trash was sent to the landfill (!)- the rest was composted or recycled.
- Living Sustainably Along the Lakeshore (LSATL) – The next event will be on March 6 from 7:30-9:00pm at Herrick District Library on the topic of planting and saving seeds (Community Knowledge Framework element).
- Macatawa Area Coordinating Council (MACC) – The MACC is co-sponsoring an event on March 12-13 with Ian Lockwood, a nationally recognized leader in sustainable transportation and urban design.
- Community Energy Plan (CEP) – At a February 28 joint Council/Board study session, Saliers will be presenting the 2021 interim goals and metrics for the CEP developed by the CEP Strategic Development Team, as well as the GHG emissions reduction progress as calculated with the ICLEI tool.
- Farmers Market sub-committee – No update this month.
- Outreach & Education sub-committee – No update this Month.
- Lighting sub-committee – No update this month.
- Transportation sub-committee – No update this month.

- Website sub-committee – No update this month.

Adjournment –

A motion was made by Johnston, with support from Ulstad, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Next meeting will be March 19 at 5:00pm.

Recorded by Andrew Reynolds

Planning Engineer
Holland Board of Public Works