

## HOLLAND COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

### MEETING MINUTES

March 19, 2018

#### Call to Order –

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by Vice Chair Greg Lam.

#### Roll Call –

Members Present: Greg Lam, Carolyn Ulstad, Colleen Nagel, Bob Johnston, Jeff Raywood, Kyle DeBruyn, Holland-Hope College Sustainability Institute Representative Michelle Gibbs, Student Representative Josh Laux, Staff Liaisons Aaron Thelenwood and Andrew Reynolds

Other: Anne Saliers (HBPW), Ken Freestone (COH), Allison Alison El-Cassabgui (HBPW)

Absent: Jerry Tonini, Dan Robertson, Makayla Putnam, City Council Representative Wayne Klomprens  
HBPW Board Representative Diane Haworth, Student Representative Jackson Maktheva

#### Approval of Minutes –

The February meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Ulstad, with support by Johnston, to approve the minutes. The motion passed 6-0.

#### Public Comment –

(None)

#### HBPW Renewable Energy Purchase Option –

Alison El-Cassabgui from HBPW gave a brief overview of what it would cost for City-owned buildings to be powered via renewable energy. This program is available to all customers; for an extra 1.5 cents per kWh, the Board buys renewable energy credits, or “recs,” that are dedicated to the property owner, which can provide up to 100% of the building owner’s energy needs from renewable sources. Since all existing customers already have approximately 15% renewable energy due to HBPW’s current resource mix, the program could allow the City to buy recs to cover the remaining 85% of its purchased power with renewables. El-Cassabgui calculated the estimated cost to the City for purchasing 25, 50 or 85 percent renewable energy (based on existing electrical demands):

25% = \$11,288 additional per year

50% = \$22,256 additional per year

85% = \$38,380 additional per year

\*\*15% renewable energy already included in HBPW resource mix = no additional cost

El-Cassabgui pointed out that some customers use the program to earn LEED points, or to have renewable energy without the hassle of on-site installation and maintenance of renewable energy generation equipment. Johnston wondered if the City buying 100 percent renewable energy would look like it was abandoning the new power plant. Other members pointed out that the City’s existing budget crunch makes the purchase of any amount of renewable credits unlikely to be viable this year, but the discussion should be revisited in the next few years. Saliers pointed out that Grand Rapids, Traverse City, and others are already setting 100% renewable energy goals.

### **Open Discussion –**

Reynolds summarized the meeting earlier in the month attended by himself, Tonini, Interim City manager Matt Messer, Brian White, Andy Kenyon, and Mark Vanderploeg intended to give the City Manager an overview of SusCom's ongoing initiatives and activities planned for the coming year. Tonini made a specific request to increase the trial period for the Framework by another year, but a definitive answer was not given in the meeting. It is the intent of the SusCom leadership team to try and set up a similar meeting with the new City Manager as soon as possible once he assumes his new role.

Reynolds suggested that members review an example he shared via email of how all of the City of Wyoming's City Council reports include a discussion of the sustainability triple-bottom-line. It may be a model for how we could incorporate the Framework outcomes into Council reports and increase its usefulness and enhance the Framework "brand."

Laux asked if the school energy competition was happening again this year. Gibbs confirmed that the competition is happening, but Black River is not participating this year, so the only participants are Holland, Holland Christian, and West Ottawa.

### **City Hall Chair Recycling–**

Freestone told the committee a recent story of how he was able to implement the intent of the Framework to achieve a positive sustainability outcome for the City. The City recently purchased over 100 new office chairs, but no one had looked into the fate of the chairs being replaced. When Freestone investigated, he determined the chairs were likely headed for the landfill. Using his connections at Green Michigan and the Holland Rescue Mission, Freestone quickly established a process by which the City's old office chairs and other area used office furniture could be recycled. In total, 539 pounds of clean metal was salvaged, and the foam from the chair cushions will be made into carpet backing. Other chairs were able to be resold at the HRM's Gateway Center.

### **Solid Waste RFP update–**

Thelenwood gave the group an update of the City's progress reviewing the bids for waste hauling and recycling services. Recycling has been a big topic of discussion, specifically the merits of single-pass or separate truck approaches. Chef is the only company that uses single-pass with recycling bags and not a separate recycling cart, so the cost of acquiring a new fleet of carts is impacting the costs from the other bidders. The MDEQ recommends separate cans to decrease possible contamination. Raywood asked if compressed natural gas (CNG) trucks were an option for any of the haulers. Thelenwood said that Republic and Waste Management have trucks in other locations that can do it, but it is not expected any of the haulers would use that technology in Holland at this time.

### **CEP Greenhouse Gas Estimates–**

Gibbs summarized the results of the recent greenhouse gas (GHG) estimates conducted to update the 2010 Community Energy Plan (CEP) calculations. From 2010 to 2015, the City's per-capita GHG emissions dropped from 24 metric tons to 22 metric tons, and by 2017 (with the completion of the Holland Energy Park), it is estimated that the per-capita emissions dropped further still, down to 17 metric tons. The goal of the CEP is to get the City down to 10 metric tons per-capita by 2050, so we have already made very significant progress toward that goal. However, much work is left to be done, and it will likely need to include a lot of behavioral changes by residents.

### **Committee Reports –**

- Holland-Hope College Sustainability Institute – An offer was made and accepted for the student researcher who will be assisting with the tree canopy study this summer. Still need to determine

the priority areas to study (possibly right-of-ways?)

- Living Sustainably Along the Lakeshore (LSATL) – The March 6 on the topic of planting and saving seeds was extremely well attended (over 150 people!). The next event is on April 24 on the topic of Fly Fishing.
- Macatawa Area Coordinating Council (MACC) – The Ian Lockwood series was held last week and was a big success. Green Commute Week is coming up in May.
- Community Energy Plan (CEP) – Gibbs is working on a report for the Holland Energy Fund with a detailed summary of the GHG calculations.
- Farmers Market sub-committee – Johnston and the subcommittee have received positive feedback from MAX on partnering to encourage or incentivize bus ridership to the market. The next step is putting together a marketing plan with hopes of starting the program by June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 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 Nagel, with support from Raywood, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Next meeting will be April 23 at 5:00pm.

Recorded by Andrew Reynolds

Planning Engineer  
Holland Board of Public Works