

HOLLAND COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

May 21, 2018

Call to Order –

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Chair Jerry Tonini.

Roll Call –

Members Present: Jerry Tonini, Colleen Nagel, Bob Johnston, Jeff Raywood, Dan Robertson, Kyle DeBruyn, Holland-Hope College Sustainability Institute Representative Michelle Gibbs, HBPW Board Representative Diane Haworth, Student Representative Josh Laux, Staff Liaisons Aaron Thelenwood and Andrew Reynolds

Absent: Carolyn Ulstad, Greg Lam, Makayla Putnam, City Council Representative Wayne Klomparens, Student Representative Jackson Maktheva

Approval of Minutes –

The April meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Robertson, with support by Raywood, to approve the minutes. The motion passed 6-0.

Public Comment –

Johnston shared a flyer for an upcoming West Michigan Creation Care meeting at Hope Reformed Church on June 4.

Open Discussion –

Gibbs gave the group a summary of the recent LSATL Transportation event held in the City Hall parking lot on May 18. Electric vehicles were on display, bike shops were there to connect with local cyclists, and the HPD Polar Patrol ice cream truck was on site- to name just a few of the attractions. Even with the excellent programming, the event was only lightly attended, and it is likely that the timing of the event was a factor (Friday night when other big events were scheduled in town). If a similar event is held next year, some goals would be to get more electric vehicles for visitors to tour and maybe having a co-sponsoring group (like Creation Care) to help push attendance.

Gibbs also reported that the new tree inventory intern has hit the ground running and has been using the tree identification app in some of the City parks and right-of-ways. The intern has already identified a number of trees that were incorrectly surveyed in previous efforts, so she is off to a great start. The tree inventory app is not yet available to the public for use, but the desire is to make it available eventually.

Thelenwood mentioned that he had been asked by City leadership to ask SusCom for input on whether the City should step in to preserve vehicle charging stations around the City. Tonini suggested putting the topic on next month's agenda to discuss, if in the meantime the group could get some more information on the topic. Reynolds mentioned that the BPW is just completing a recommendation report on the next steps for the charging stations, and he will make inquiries before the next meeting to confirm the final results of that effort to see if and how that correlates to the request for input from the City.

Tonini floated the idea of doing some new surveying of the community to gauge their knowledge of and/or interest in various sustainability topics. One of the questions raised was the intended way to distribute such a survey. Some suggestions included: Survey Monkey, bi-annual City tax bill mailings, or the annual BPW customer survey. It was also emphasized that we need to have a clear goal of the survey and only ask a

handful of key questions to increase the likelihood of responses. Haworth pointed out that we should think of some questions we would want to repeat in future surveys to see a trend in responses over time.

Robertson suggested that, somewhat in light of the difficulty in finding audiences for the Framework overview presentation, that SusCom create a quarterly newsletter than it could use to give updates on committee initiatives, local sustainability events, etc. The idea was well received, though it was emphasized that even a small newsletter can be a lot of work to populate and edit. It was suggested that perhaps we could try to piggyback on the existing City newsletter at first and just submit content on a regular basis. More discussion is needed at a future SusCom meeting to confirm if and how to go forward with this idea.

Thelenwood showed the committee the recent updates he has made to the SusCom website, and asked all sub-committee chairs to send him their latest and greatest content for inclusion.

Solid Waste RFP update–

The contract is nearing final approvals. A draft MOU is under review between the City and HBPW for the handling of trash billing services.

Holland-Hope College Sustainability Institute update–

There is no change to report since the last update given to SusCom in April; as of July 1, 2019, Gibbs will begin working part-time for Hope on college-specific sustainability matters but will no longer be able to devote time to the City-wide initiatives she has led or participated in up to this point. Robertson made a motion that SusCom officially gives its support for the Institute and voices its desire to see it preserved. The motion was seconded by Tonini and approved 6-0.

Committee Reports –

- Farmers Market sub-committee – Gibbs ran an article in the Sentinel to spread the word on the MAX/Farmers Market promotion during the month of June. Sandwich boards are up at the bus depot with information as well.
- *All other committee reports were either covered in other meeting discussion or did not have an update this month.

Adjournment –

A motion was made by Nagel, with support from Robertson, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be June 18 at 5:00pm.

Recorded by Andrew Reynolds

Planning Engineer
Holland Board of Public Works