

## HOLLAND COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

### MEETING MINUTES

July 16, 2018

#### **Call to Order –**

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Chair Jerry Tonini.

#### **Roll Call –**

Members Present: Jerry Tonini, Carolyn Ulstad, Bob Johnston, Jeff Raywood, Kyle DeBruyn, Holland-Hope College Sustainability Institute Representative Michelle Gibbs, HBPW Board Representative Diane Haworth, and Staff Liaisons Aaron Thelenwood and Andrew Reynolds

Absent: Dan Robertson, Colleen Nagel, City Council Representative Wayne Klomparens, Student Representatives Josh Laux and Jackson Maktheva

Other: Katelyn DeWitt, Dr. Kathy Winnett-Murray, Dr. Greg Murray, Anne Saliers, Andy Kenyon

#### **Approval of Minutes –**

The June meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by DeBruyn, with support by Ulstad, to approve the minutes. The motion passed 5-0.

#### **Election of Committee Vice-Chair –**

With the resignation of Greg Lam last month, Tonini requested nominations to fill the remainder of Lam's term as Vice-chair. Johnston nominated Ulstad- who accepted the nomination- and her nomination was approved by the committee 5-0.

#### **Public Comment –**

(None)

#### **Tree Canopy Research Project Presentation –**

Katelyn DeWitt has been working as a summer intern for the City over the past few months completing a partial inventory of the City's tree canopy. She presented a summary of her findings to the committee. Her work focused on the public right-of-way in Holland Heights and part of the central City, as well as Centennial, Kollen, and Prospect parks. In just those areas alone, she identified 94 different tree species, with Norway maple, Sugar maple, and Red maple being the most predominant species. Michigan-native species were just over 50 percent of the trees identified.

In addition to documenting the types of trees, DeWitt also used the iTree app to calculate the economic value of each tree based on its species and size. The tree's value was based on its ability to sequester carbon, intercept pollution, reduce runoff, and produce oxygen. The total value of the 3,663 trees she inventoried was over \$16,000 per year.

With continued funding from SusCom, the City of Holland, and other potential sponsors, the intent is to continue the tree canopy inventory in other parts of the City next summer.

#### **Open Discussion –**

A question was posed if the committee should cancel one of our remaining summer meetings in light of low attendance in recent months due to busy summer schedules. Tonini suggested that with our already

limited meetings, we need all the work time and group discussion we can get, but it's okay if individual members need to miss a meeting here and there.

Gibbs will be officially transitioning to her new role with Hope College on August 8, but discussions are still ongoing with the City to find ways to use her services. Thelenwood and a former HHCSI intern are picking up some of the tasks that Gibbs and the Institute previously handled for the City.

Last week Gibbs and Reynolds presented as part of a webinar hosted by the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN) on the topic of greenhouse gas inventories. They shared the lessons learned from using the ICLEI tool for Holland's recent GHG updates.

#### **Farmers Market Bags –**

On a recent visit to Boyne City Farmers Market, Gibbs noticed the prevalence of compostable produce bags. Reynolds suggested that SusCom could investigate sponsoring a pilot program for some Holland market vendors to try out similar bags. Ulstad pointed out that corn-based bags may actually have a higher life cycle cost than traditional bags, and Johnston and other members added that compostable bags are only as beneficial as the extent to which they are actually composted, since being put in a landfill does not facilitate their successful decomposition. More investigation is needed into available products before any pilot program is initiated.

#### **Committee Reports –**

- Transportation – The group is reviewing the Age-Friendly [report](#) for Holland and Zeeland for insights into the transportation needs of Holland's older population.
- Farmers Market – Still waiting for an update from MAX on the results of the recent market promotion this past June.
- MACC – Register now for the green infrastructure seminar on Thursday, August 23. Topics will include the new Ottawa County stormwater standards.
- HBPW – The Water Festival is this Saturday at Windmill Island.
- \*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 Johnston, with support from Raywood, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be August 20 at 5:00pm.

Recorded by Andrew Reynolds

Planning Engineer  
Holland Board of Public Works