

HOLLAND COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

September 17, 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, Jeff Raywood, Dan Robertson, Colleen Nagel, Jennie Thompson, Bob Johnston, Holland-Hope College Sustainability Institute Representative Michelle Gibbs, HBPW Board Representative Diane Haworth, City Council Representative Wayne Klomprens, Student Representatives Josh Laux and Ethan Myers, and Staff Liaison and Andrew Reynolds

Absent: Staff Liaison Aaron Thelenwood

Other: Ken Freestone (COH)

Approval of Minutes –

The August meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Ulstad, with support by Nagel, to approve the minutes. The motion passed 7-0.

Public Comment –

(None)

Open Discussion –

Ulstad shared that she had recently collected a set of 16 full place settings for a recent event as a way to reduce paper/plastic waste. They are stored in a tote and she offered them up to any members of the committee for their use at any future meetings.

Gibbs reported on Hope's recent Earth Week events, including but not limited to: Meatless Monday in the cafeterias, Transportation Tuesday (supported by the MACC), and Earth Jam. The new Bultman student center will be LEED Gold certified; a formal press release will be out soon.

Klomprens mentioned that Council has not been out to visit the Chef Container (now Republic) facility in a while, and this stimulated a discussion of the effectiveness of the yellow plastic recycling bags. Robertson pointed out that Holland Township (also served by Republic) has already gotten rid of their yellow bags and replaced them with separate recycling carts. Johnston suggested that until we have some kind of data that indicates the bags aren't working as intended, we should be careful about insinuating that the bags (and therefore the City's recycling program as a whole) does not work. Freestone reminded the group that the City's waste characterization study is scheduled for early October, so as part of that effort we can get a better idea about the true contamination rate that the bags are either causing or contributing to.

Johnston relayed that a fellow member at Grace Church told him that her condo association- within a ½ mile of Lake Michigan- is using Roundup for weed control and wanted to know the extent of the risks this may pose to local water quality. The question was asked what weed control chemicals the City uses, and Freestone suggested that Andy Kenyon would have that information. Gibbs suggested that safe chemical use would be a good topic for an upcoming City newsletter sustainability tip.

Hope College Research Project –

Based on the timing required to get funding, faculty, and students lined up for the upcoming summer, it was determined that a discussion was needed now to decide if any alternative research projects should be developed. Other ideas of a signage, sidewalk, and/or bike rack inventory were offered, and Reynolds suggested that using student help could be a way to accomplish the community survey that SusCom has discussed in recent meetings. Ultimately, the group was in favor of prioritizing the continuation of the ongoing tree canopy study, since there are other areas of the City that were not completed last summer.

SusCom Vacancies –

There are now two vacancies on the committee- one appointed by the City and one by HBPW. Tonini will follow up with Mayor DeBoer to ask about potential candidates, and Freestone offered to poll the West Michigan Creation Care group for potential interest.

City Newsletter Sustainability Tips –

Ulstad offered to write the October sustainability tip- the October LSATL event is on Smart Energy. Reynolds and Thelenwood will develop a schedule for the next 9-12 months to better keep track of the tip topics and line up member volunteers to draft the tips each month. The schedule will be presented at the October SusCom meeting.

Committee Reports –

- Transportation – There is a CEP steering committee meeting this Thursday and transportation will be discussed- this may generate ideas that SusCom could support
- LSATL – The next event is November 13- “Stump Our Recycling Chumps”
- Farmers Market – 12 people rode the Max to the market twice- enough to redeem their coupon. Johnston would still like to hear back from the MAX on if they would do this again, make it a permanent program, or if and how SusCom can help.
- *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 Robertson, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be October 15 at 5:00pm.

Recorded by Andrew Reynolds

Planning Engineer
Holland Board of Public Works