



# MINUTES

## City of Flagstaff

### Sustainability Commission

Thursday, August 23, 2018

4:30 – 6:00 pm

**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL**

211 West Aspen Avenue, Flagstaff, Arizona

A quorum of the Flagstaff City Council may be in attendance of the Sustainability Commission meeting.



In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact 928-213-2100. Notification at least 48 hours in advance will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

#### COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Brian Petersen, Chair  
Eli Chamberlain  
Dara Marks Marino

David McCain  
Amanda Ulmer  
Kevin White

#### STAFF LIAISON:

Nicole Antonopoulos

#### 1. **Call to Order**

Chair Petersen called the meeting to order at 4:32pm.

#### 2. **Roll Call**

Chair Petersen

Vice Chair McCain

Commissioner Chamberlain

Commissioner Marks Marino

Commissioner Vigneau (previously  
Ulmer)

Commissioner White

#### 3. **Public Participation**

No public participation.

#### 4. **Approval of Minutes**

##### **A. June 6, 2018**

Commissioner McCain submitted revision requests by email to Nicole Antonopoulos. Commissioner Marks Marino motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor.

## 5. Business

### A. Sustainability Neighborhood Grants (45 Minutes) – All

#### ▪ **Grant Application Review**

Sustainability Neighborhood Grant applicants were on the agenda to present their grant applications. The Commissioners determined it would be best to listen to all of the grantee with time for questions, then follow with a short discussion.

Afterward, the Commissioners would make their votes. This process was decided in order to make for a fair process.

#### ▪ **Azulita Project - Flagstaff Doesn't Suck**

Three Board Members from Azulita Project presented on their grant proposal “Flagstaff Doesn't Suck” (the project title was changed to “Strong, Free Flagstaff”). The presenters explained that their project is aimed at education. They are partnering with the NAU Green Jacks who will pass out information to local businesses on the environmental issues associated with straws. The funds requested under the grant will go towards educational materials. The Azulita Project did a dry run at Karma restaurant which is a straw-free business. The presenters emphasized that the idea of the project is to help educate restaurant staff and is not by any means meant to be a shaming campaign. The presenters described their project as a second tier approach in addressing ocean pollution.

#### ▪ **Flagstaff High School - Green Eagle**

The Flagstaff High School applicant was not present and no presentation of their project was given during the meeting.

#### ▪ **Museum of Northern Arizona - ADA Accessible Pathway and Garden Expansion**

Jan Busco is Research Botany Specialist at the Museum of Northern Arizona (MNA) and is the liaison between MNA and the Colton Community Garden, a 100% volunteer-based garden. The grant project is intended to keep the current momentum going with the revival of the garden as a place for public education and enjoyment. The garden includes three primary types of plants: native plants, vegetables, and agricultural crops focused on native culture. The project purpose is to create a demonstration garden at the Colton Garden entrance to showcase different ways people can grow plants water consciously and in low-cost ways at high altitude. The materials used to create this area would all be local and recycled.

#### ▪ **Graduate Research - Precious Plastics**

Tyler Linner, a graduate student in the Sustainable Communities program at NAU focusing his thesis on plastic recycling. Mr. Linner received a grant from NAU to buy a plastic shredder machine and compressor. He recycles plastics that would normally go to the landfill in Flagstaff using these machines. He requested a grant to purchase an extruder from Precious Plastic which will allow him to create a more presentable project. Without the extruder, Mr. Linner is able to recycle plastics, but the product created has a confetti-like design due to the various types of plastics being recycled. An extruder will give all his finished products a pinkish hue.

Commissioner Vigneau (previously Ulmer) expressed reservations about the Colton Garden project because she felt that garden projects have been done many times in the past. Discussion was had about what is sustainable and Commissioner Peterson commented on the social/quality of life aspect of the project which is important for sustainable communities. Commissioner White agreed and mentioned the importance of mental health. Commissioner Mark Marino asked the grantees for clarification on a past grant granted to MNA for composting bins. Mrs. Busco mentions that this proposed project would connect with the composting project. Commissioner Marks Marino expressed concern about giving too much money to same entities.

Commissioner McCain motioned that they fully fund the Colton Garden project. Seconded. The vote passes with three “yeas” from Commissioners Chamberlain, McCain, and Peterson. There were two “nays” from Commissioners Ulmer and Marks Marino.

Commissioner Marks Marino moved that they fund the Precious Plastic project. Commissioner Vigneau seconded. The grant application was approved.

- **Staff Proposed Changes to Grant Process**

Ms. Antonopoulos presents on administrative efficiencies that they are trying to move forward regarding the Neighborhood Sustainability grants. Lessons learned from the last year highlighted a need to align the grant application process with the close out of the fiscal year. Commissioners will review the proposed changes at their September meeting.

**B. Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Update (15 minutes)– Jenny Niemann**

Mrs. Niemann, Sustainability Specialist, provided an update on the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP). In June, Mrs. Niemann presented the preliminary plan to the Sustainability Commission. She mentioned that Ms. Antonopoulos presented this to City Council at the end of June.

Mrs. Niemann and Sustainability staff will go to Council three times to review the content of the plan. Three work sessions will occur September 25<sup>th</sup>, October 9<sup>th</sup>, and October 23<sup>rd</sup> to review the content of the plan. The draft plan will be published on September 19<sup>th</sup> for the Council agenda. The Final Plan will be released to Council and the community on November 7<sup>th</sup>. The November 20<sup>th</sup> Council meeting will include time to adopt the Plan.

Mrs. Niemann discussed how they will focus on operationalizing equity so that they consider equity in the implementation actions and in policy. They will utilize a check list to ensure that equity is always part of the discussion.

The Implementation Plan will also include a Community Action Guide which will give the public a guide on how they as individuals can take action on climate. They will also have a Community Outreach Strategy which will be an internal document that describes how staff will communicate with the public on the plan.

Also to be included is a Funding Options section to discuss how actions will be funded. Another section entitled Accountability and Reporting will help them stay accountable to the goals they've set in the plan. This section will also include an annual progress report with a greenhouse gas inventory (which they already do annually) plus key performance indicators for every goal in the plan. An online dashboard will help the public understand what goals and indicators exist and who is responsible for overseeing each goal. The plan would be updated every five years.

Commissioner McCain expressed concern that the Sustainability Section has not been fully funded in the past and asked for clarification on who makes decisions about funding. Ms. Antonopoulos described several layers of decisionmaking through the budgetary process. The final budget is approved in late May with resolutions that adopt the budget presented to Council in June.

**C. Sustainability Section Update (10 minutes) – Nicole Antonopoulos**

Staff will present an update on the energy and renewable energy efforts on September 25<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Antonopoulos also announced bittersweet news that McKenzie Jones has moved on to the City of Sedona. We now have good partnership opportunities with them. Dylan Lenzen is the Acting Community Sustainability Specialist. They are working internally for a refresh opportunity on the Zero Waste Coordinator. They are also doing an organizational study to catch up with the growth of the section.

**6. To and From (5 Minutes) – All**

Commissioner McCain mentioned that Friends of Flagstaff's Future is hosting a City Council Candidate forum on August 30<sup>th</sup> from 5:30pm-8pm at Coconino Community College Lone Tree.

**7. Future Agenda Items (5 Minutes) – All**

**A. City of Flagstaff Open Spaces Program**

**B. Regional Plan**

**C. Local Economies**

**D. Community Agriculture**

**E. Animal Keeping Code**

**F. Staff Proposed Changes to Sustainability Grant Process**

**8. Adjournment**

Chair Petersen adjourned the meeting at 6:08pm.

**CERTIFICATION OF POSTING OF NOTICE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing notice was duly posted at Flagstaff City Hall on \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m. in accordance with the statement filed by the Disability Awareness Commission with the City Clerk.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

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