

# MINUTES

**CITY OF FLAGSTAFF  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION**

**THURSDAY**

**July 23, 2020**

**ONLINE MEETING  
MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**4:30 – 7:00 PM**

## **1. Call to Order**

Chair McCain called the meeting of the Sustainability Commission held July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, to order at 4:30pm.

## **2. Roll Call**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair McCain             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Haferkamp |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair White         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Kauffman  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Chamberlain | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Konkel    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Coffey      |  |

Others present: Dylan Lenzen (Staff Liaison), Lisa Clark (Minutes)

## **3. Public Comment**

Public Participation enables the public to address the Commission on any subject within their jurisdiction that is not scheduled before the Commission on that day. Due to Open Meeting Laws, the Commission cannot discuss or act on items presented during this portion of the agenda. To address the Commission on an item that is on the agenda, please wait for the Chair to call for Public Comment at the time the item is heard.

No public comment

## **4. Approval of Minutes**

**Moved by Commissioner Haferkamp, seconded by Commissioner Chamberlain to approve the June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020, minutes.**

Discussion: None

Vote: 6 – 0 Unanimously passed

## **5. Business**

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**A. FY19-20 Neighborhood Sustainability Grant Extension Request – Tynkertopia (5 minutes)**

Lisa Clark, Community Stewards Assistant, City of Flagstaff  
Requested Action: Vote

Tynkertopia, a recipient of the Neighborhood Sustainability Grant for FY19-20, requested an extension to complete their project. Commissioners were provided a letter outlining the reasoning and revised timeline.

**Commissioner Coffey motioned and Commissioner Kauffman seconded to approve a one-year extension for the Neighborhood Sustainability Grant awarded to Tynkertopia.**

Discussion: None

Vote: 6-0 Unanimously passed

**B. FY20-21 Neighborhood Sustainability Grants (90 minutes)**

Lisa Clark, Community Stewards Assistant, City of Flagstaff  
Requested Action:

- Determine grant awards for all grant categories

Ms. Clark gave a brief overview of the grant review process for the Commission and presenters. She also highlighted that there are two applications from Killip Elementary School to consider. In the grant information provided to applicants, it states that each group is only eligible for one award per fiscal year. As the two projects are related to very different programs, it will be up to the Commission whether only one project or both are eligible for funding simultaneously.

Water Conservation Category

The Commission made their final determination on the Greenlaw Garden Hub project for Water Conservation funding based on the additional information provided by the applicant since the last Commission meeting.

**Commissioner Chamberlain motioned and Commissioner Coffey seconded to award a \$2,000 grant to Silas Aiken for the Greenlaw Garden Hub project from the Water Conservation fund.**

Discussion: None

Vote: 6-0 Unanimously passed

Food Category

*“Surviving COVID-19 Food Not Lawns”, Karen Begay*

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Ms. Begay was unable to attend the meeting and did not present.

Climate Action Category

*"Pedal to Flagstaff's Future", Andres "Dapper Dre" Adauto*

Mr. Adauto hopes to create a short video highlighting the evolution of bikes to inspire the Flagstaff community to ride more. The style of the video will be like one created by the same team called "Carry Out Stay In".

Commissioners Coffey and Haferkamp asked for more information on what the grant funds would be used for. The funds would help pay the videographer for editing and cover the production work through possible equipment rentals, necessary supplies, and Mr. Adauto's time.

Chair McCain and Commissioner Kauffman asked how the video would be distributed. The Museum of Contemporary Art Flagstaff, Convention and Visitor's Bureau, and the City Sustainability Program are the planned avenues of initial distribution. Mr. Adauto will also consider using grant funds for social media boosts.

*"Flagstaff Junior Academy Climate Action", Stefan Vest – Flagstaff Junior Academy*

Flagstaff Junior Academy started a Climate Action Committee to create a Climate Action Plan at the request of a student during the 2018-2019 school year, with participation from school staff, students, and families. The Committee has already developed an outline of the plan and have been working with Northern Arizona University to hire a graduate student to write the plan. The funds from the grant would go primarily toward a stipend for the graduate student. Flagstaff Junior Academy will be starting the school year with virtual learning. This will not really impact the development of the plan, but will delay the start of the associated science experiments by students.

Chair McCain requested more information about what the supplies in the budget are for. Mr. Vest explained that the science teachers at Flagstaff Junior Academy have been trying to move away from the traditional science fair model and shift to climate challenges. The supplies are for those climate challenges.

Chair McCain expressed concern that it looked like the school would not be providing any money for the project, as this would make the longevity much more difficult. Mr. Vest clarified that the school will be contributing a few hundred dollars to supplement the graduate student stipend covered by the grant and providing support through staff time. Up until now, teachers have also had a small budget for supplies for the planned challenges.

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*“Energy Efficient Appliances for Affordable Housing”, Rommy Sekhon – Housing Solutions of Northern Arizona*

Housing Solutions works to mitigate homelessness and provide affordable housing. Because their rental units are all intended to be affordable for low-income renters, they are below the market rate and the cost is high for maintenance of these properties. Housing Solutions hopes to replace two water heaters with the grant money, which will use less water and electricity and ultimately cut costs for low income renters.

Commissioner Kauffman asked how much water would be saved with the new units, and how much that might save tenants in costs. Ms. Sekhon did not have the exact numbers, but the actual savings would be dependent on the users.

Commissioner Konkel wanted more information on any education that is being planned to inform the tenants of the upgrade and related sustainability impacts. Housing Solutions provides classes, so can have one dedicated to the new energy efficient appliances. This was not part of the original plan but would be easy to incorporate.

*“NAZCCA Climate Awareness Campaign”, Patrick Grady – Northern Arizona Climate Change Alliance*

Northern Arizona Climate Change Alliance (NAZCCA) is a regional grassroots nonprofit focused on advancing the climate justice movement. This proposal focuses on Flagstaff, though they do provide programs in the surrounding area as well. NAZCCA will continue to provide important messaging about climate change and climate justice, including drawing attention to opportunities and challenges we are all facing due to COVID-19, through five planned workshops.

Commissioner Kauffman asked about attendance at past workshops and whether they will be offered free-of-charge. All of the workshops are free to the public, and the format (virtual or in-person) starting this fall will depend on COVID-19 impacts. Past workshops have seen 75-125 attendees.

Vice Chair White asked for clarification on what is covered under “publicity” in the budget. Once physical gatherings can safely happen, those funds will go towards hard copies of materials. If physical gatherings cannot happen for much longer, then those funds will go toward digital resources to help with the virtual format of the workshops.

Chair McCain expressed concern about the longevity of NAZCCA as their operating budget is very low. Mr. Grady explained that the number in the budget is not accurate, as part of the operating budget is dedicated to two paid staff members. There is a need to diversify funding sources, however, so they will be holding fundraisers in the fall across northern Arizona and looking for other opportunities for funding.

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Waste Category

*"Consistent Recycling for Flagstaff Schools", Maria Campbell and Darren Bingham – Azulita Project*

Azulita Project has been working with Willow Bend and Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD) schools to help reduce the amount of waste generated by students. They worked with Flagstaff Junior Academy, Marshall Magnet School, Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy, and Boys and Girls Club of Flagstaff last year, and this proposal is to continue that work. Each participating school will get recycling bins with consistent messaging, with a goal of getting kids excited about waste by integrating with curriculum.

Commissioner Coffey asked which schools would be getting bins. Willow Bend will be directly contacting FUSD teachers who have not received new bins yet. Possibilities include Flagstaff High School and Coconino High School. The ultimate goal is to provide these materials to every school in Flagstaff.

Commissioner Kauffman asked for clarification on how they know that the project has been successful in the past with schools that have already received the bins and signage. Many of the schools from last year have not had the opportunity to use the new bins due to schools shutting down but have been taught the curriculum already. At the start of the project, Mr. Bingham visited many FUSD schools and noticed that there was very little signage and information about how to recycle, and there has been a noticeable difference with that messaging in place. There are also hundreds of testimonials from students showing that the program has made them more aware and excited about waste reduction.

Commissioner Haferkamp asked whether they have any information on the proper waste disposal success rate at schools. They have done waste audits both before and after bringing in the signage, which has been showing promising results. Plastics have been the hardest material to educate on.

Chair McCain asked about the Arizona Community Foundation funding, and whether the project will still be able to move forward without that funding. The funding is very likely to be awarded, but Azulita Project does have other sources of income, emergency funds, and ideas for additional funding.

Commissioner Coffey asked whether the project would include minimizing waste in general, and not just recycling. Many of the sources of waste are up to the food providers at each school, but Azulita Project is currently working on this to help reduce waste at the source.

*"BGCF Environmental Education Program", Madelyn Ford – Boys and Girls Club of Flagstaff*

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The Boys and Girls Club of Flagstaff (BGCF) will be implementing new environmental education curriculum as a supplement to what is provided in schools using both outdoor and online programming. The facility is in Brannen Homes, a low-income community. There are already garden boxes in place, but they are hoping to increase their use and output. As part of the new curriculum, BGCF will also continue the work that Azulita Project started with them last year to reduce waste. Community components include education of community members, community composting infrastructure, and expanding the garden.

Commissioner Kauffman asked for more information about the curriculum. The curriculum will be built by an NAU intern and overseen by Ms. Ford.

Commissioner Chamberlain asked what will be done with the power tools once the project is complete. The power tools used will be kept in the club and looked after by their custodians until they are needed for the next project.

*"From Waste to Growing Vegetables", Jamie Shadian – Congregation Lev Shalom*

In 2019, the Congregation Lev Shalom joined the Religious Action Center and made a commitment to action on important social issues. Climate justice was decided to be the most pressing issue, and they have been working on educating themselves about reducing waste. One of the actions they have taken was to purchase a composter, which is currently hosted in Ms. Shadian's backyard. The grant would help them to purchase and maintain a community garden plot in the spring to use their compost in and eventually donate the vegetables.

Chair McCain requested more information about the milestones for the project. In spring of 2021, they will be starting the plot. Other milestones are based on the growing season and Flagstaff weather. This will be a learning experience for the Congregation, and they are hoping to learn from experts at the community garden.

*"The Pueblo Soil Project", Geoff and Kat Kie*

The Pueblo Soil Project is an indigenous permaculture project that focuses on resilience and biodynamic systems. Soil is an integral part to these systems, and the creation of rich soils can also help reduce waste with both compost and worm bins. This project is focused on sharing this soil with low-income communities in Flagstaff while integrating STEM education, storytelling, and traditional ecological knowledge.

Commissioner Haferkamp asked for clarification on what components of the project are considered to be outreach rather than product sales. Mr. Kie is planning on recording this traditional knowledge to share with the community and ultimately provide access.

Vice Chair White asked what specific groups would be targeted in this outreach plan. Native American and low income populations are at high risk, and will be the main

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target as that is where the greatest need is. They have been growing heirloom and traditional seeds from Hopi, White Mountain Apache, and other communities, and hope to share those.

Chair McCain expressed concern that there is a large component to the project that seems to be focused on starting a business in difficult economic times and asked if the project would be able to continue if the business does not go well. The business aspect is a long-term vision, but the focus right now is as a community service so the project is not contingent on making a profit.

*"Valley Crest Pet Waste Disposal", Joe Shannon*

The Valley Crest neighborhood is located across Highway 180 from the Museum of Northern Arizona. It has a very small stretch of FUTS, but connects with the Schultz Y, so it gets a lot of foot traffic and has a big pet waste program. This grant would help fund the purchase of dog waste bag stations, and many people in the neighborhood support the project and have agreed to help with the initial upkeep of the stations.

Commissioner Coffey asked if there was an alternative to plastic bags. There are biodegradable bags, but they may not be the most practical. However, Mr. Shannon mentioned that he would be willing to research that further.

Chair McCain asked for clarification on what would be done by Parks and Recreation and what would be done by the neighborhood groups. They are requesting that Parks and Recreation install the stations to respect the City's codes and procedures. Eventually, the maintenance of the stations would fall on Parks and Recreation. They have not directly spoken to anyone at Parks and Recreation, though they have written to them, so do not have permission from the City to install the stations at this time.

*"Computer Restoration for Waste Mitigation and Community Resilience for the Sunnyside Neighborhood", Stefan Nelson – W.F. Killip Elementary School and Community Learning Center*

Killip Elementary School just received a STEM certification, and in support of that certification and as a reaction to COVID-19, they will be starting a club tentatively called "Linux Corps". The need for access to technology has greatly increased recently with many families preferring remote learning, even before the schools shut down this spring. The program will allow for hardware to be distributed while also educating about the technology. Participants in Linux Corps will eventually help rehabilitate the computers that come in, though initially staff will help with this effort until students can come back to school in person.

*"Trash Goes Here, Not Here", Melanie Street*

Ms. Street was unable to make it to the meeting and rescinded her application.

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#### *Waste Discussion*

Chair McCain expressed concern about Mr. Shannon's project, as the work would be contingent on City work and approvals that they do not have yet.

Mr. Nelson requested that if the Commission needed to decide between funding the Killip School Garden or the Killip Community Learning Center, precedence be given to Killip School Garden.

Minor score changes were made by Chair McCain and Commissioner Kauffman.

#### Final Discussion

The Commission reviewed the priority rankings of projects based on their scores. The Commission also discussed the best process for review and decision-making and made the general decision to go with the rankings regardless of category.

Commissioner Chamberlain mentioned that he would be comfortable with both Killip Elementary project being supported, with general support from the Commission.

Commissioner Chamberlain also brought up a concern for future discussion that new applicants be given precedence over the groups that have applied for the grants in the past. The Commission agreed not to change the rankings this round based on repeat applications as the applicants were not made aware beforehand.

The projects to be funded, based on score ranking, are as follows:

- The Arboretum at Flagstaff - \$1999.50
- Killip Elementary School Garden - \$1850
- ANEW Living - \$364.99
- Boys and Girls Club of Flagstaff - \$2000
- Killip Community Learning Center - \$1200
- Azulita Project - \$1926.48
- Roots Micro Farm - \$1000
- Flagstaff Junior Academy - \$1159.03 (partial funding)

**Chair McCain motioned and Commissioner Konkell seconded to approve the above slate of projects for Neighborhood Sustainability Grant funding from the Sustainability fund.**

Discussion: Chair McCain reflected that the large amount of projects is a very different setup. Many of them scored quite high, and Chair McCain expressed regret that the Commission is unable to fund all of them this year.

Vote: 6-0 Unanimously passes



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**6. To and From (5 Minutes) – All**

Commissioner Coffey mentioned that there will be a Shoe Strike for Climate Justice on July 25<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 3pm as a socially distanced protest where participants will set out shoes with signs on the City Hall lawn. Shoes can either be donated or delivered after the event.

**7. Future Agenda Item Requests**

- None

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting of the Sustainability Commission on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, adjourned at 6:40pm.

**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. This notice has been posted on the City's website and can be downloaded at [www.flagstaff.az.gov](http://www.flagstaff.az.gov).

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jenny Niemann, Sustainability Commission Staff Liaison