

Sustainability and Energy Commission

Commission Minutes

July 27, 2022

A regular meeting of the Sustainability and Energy Commission was called to order by Eric Law at 6:04 p.m. Wednesday, July 27, 2022 in the Council Chambers at Grand Haven City Hall.

Present: Brittany Goode, Kurt Koella, Dan Small, David Mann, Nancy O'Neill, Ryan Cotton, Walter Davis, Patti Nelson, and John Kinch

Absent: Pam Blough, Oliver Shampine

Inaugural Meeting of the Sustainability & Energy Commission (SEC)

1. Meeting called to order at 6:04 PM by Eric Law.
2. The agenda was approved unanimously.
3. Discussion to have Dan Small act as interim chair due to his previous role of Chairperson of the ENRC.
4. Each member of the SEC introduced themselves and provided some background information related to their appointment to the SEC.
5. Discussed name/purpose/mission of the SEC. The former City Manager created the SEC. He appointed the previous members of the ENRC (three out of four indicated interest in being a member of the SEC) and six city residents who expressed interest in serving on the SEC. The interim City Manager approved the addition of a 7th City resident as a member. It is anticipated that there will also be two members of the Grand Haven High School GREEN team who will participate, as well as a former graduate who currently works in Grand Haven and has expressed an interest in the SEC.
6. Dan Small explained the history of the Ad Hoc Environmental and Natural Resources Committee (ENRC) and some of the projects that they worked on.
7. Discussion of the SEC's purpose. As per the memo sent by the former City Manager, the SEC has been asked to "shepherd the City's participation in the Michigan Green Communities (MIC) Program". A template of MIC action items was provided "to help the Commission focus its attention, however the Commission is encouraged to create its own future following initial collaborative discussions and the setting of a more focused set of goals."
8. Discussion of procedural guidelines: parliamentary rules, open meetings act, special meetings may be called by the chairperson.
9. Call for leadership nominations. Nominations taken and voted on for chairperson, co-chair, and secretary. All approved unanimously. Chairperson: Brittany Goode, Co-chair: Dan Small, Secretary ("minutes taker"): Patti Nelsen
10. Discussion about the involvement of ex-officio members with knowledge of specific topics that may advise or consult with the SEC.
11. Discussion about efforts in the northwest part of Ottawa County to create a Regional Sustainability Plan. Should this come to fruition, the SEC may work with them on projects of mutual interest.
12. Discussion of the Community Energy Plan task force, and efforts that have been made to date to obtain funding.

13. Discussion of a “Beach Clean Up” organized by the SEC (previously organized by ENRC) on the Thursday before the Coast Guard finale. Approved for August 4th at 6PM at the City Beach.
14. Discussion about holding a SEC meeting every few weeks to identify goals and potential task forces to work on Michigan Green Communities action items. Once goals and initial plans have been identified it is anticipated that the SEC will hold monthly meetings.
15. Next meeting: _____

Adjournment: 8:00 p.m. – Submitted by Dan Small

Notes Submitted by Patti Nelson