

Sustainability and Energy Commission Minutes

8/16/22

A regular meeting of the Sustainability and Energy Commission was called to order by Brittany Goode at 6:04 p.m. on Tuesday Aug. 16, 2022 in the Woodbine Room at the Grand Haven Community Center.

Present: Brittany Goode, Patti Nelsen, Walter Davis, John Kinch, Nancy O'Neill, David Mann, Ryan Cotton, Pam Blough, Dan Small

Absent: Kurt Koella, Oliver Shampine

Others Present: Eric Law, Ashley Latsch, 2 members of the public

1. Meeting called to order by Brittany Goode 6:04 PM
2. Roll call
3. Previous Meeting Minutes (7-27-22) approved

Agenda Items

1. Discussion about the previous and upcoming "Beach Clean-Up. At the "Beach Clean Up" on August 4, 2022 approximately 20 pounds of trash was picked up by participants. Discussion about "marketing" the concept that we need to keep our beaches clean. This can be done, through City's Facebook page and the Friday Bulletin, and also by advertising to others what we are doing. For example, placing Great Lakes Alliance Beach Clean Up stickers on our pails.
2. Ryan Cotton requests that the SEC endorse a "task force" to promote a Community Energy Plan (CEP) for both environmental and economic reasons, and to allow the task force to eventually seek funding for an Independent Consultant. The purpose of the consultant would be the following: determine our carbon footprint, set a goal for reducing our carbon footprint, increase energy literacy in the community and strive for consensus, facilitate on-bill financing for home retrofits. Prior to the creation of the SEC, grass roots efforts have been made to explore the possibility of funding for the plan from municipalities, governmental agencies and non-profits. Ryan has requested that the SEC schedule 20 minutes on the agenda at the next meeting to bring everyone up to speed with some background information on a CEP.

3. Prior to updating the City website to indicate a name change of the ENRC to Sustainability and Energy Commission, a mission statement must be developed. Dan has volunteered to work on a draft to be discussed at the next meeting.
4. Each member shared some brief thoughts about their vision for Grand Haven and potential goal areas they would like to work on.
Discussion about the participation of High School GREEN Team in the SEC. A request was made to Interim City Manager to invite the GREEN team to participate in a beach clean up scheduled for September 1.
5. Discussion about how the MI Green Communities (MGC) action items provides a framework for the SEC. The SEC can decide which goals should take priority, or to set different goals. MGC goals: *Planning For Inclusive & Lasting Impacts, Climate Resilience & Adaptation, Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy, Responsibly Managing Materials, Sustainable Land Use & Economic Development, Improving Health Outcomes, Protecting & Conserving Water Resources, Support Clean & Inclusive Mobility, and Inspire & Mobilize Residents*. Each goal area as subcategories and specific “Action Items”. There was further discussion about the “Action Items” that were marked “In Progress” or “Completed” on the application to MGC, and whether further work on these items might be warranted. Brittany participated in a MGC webinar several months ago. She shared it with other members via email and suggested everyone view it.
Motion made by Cotton to establish task forces, including one for Energy, so he could work toward applying for a grant with a deadline of August 26th. Discussion indicated this might be better taken up at the next meeting after a presentation about a potential energy task force, and other task forces, to implement the Michigan Green Communities challenge. No vote taken.
6. A “Beach Clean-Up” has been scheduled for Thursday Sept. 1. The next SEC meeting has been scheduled for Thursday Sept 8th, pending room availability.
7. Tree City of the World discussion. The application to apply is due July 2023. <https://treecitiesoftheworld.org>. Dan provided background information on the ENRC’s work of identifying native and special specimen trees on public property in Grand Haven. The purpose of taking an inventory is to make sure we have tree diversity in the case of a disease or insect wiping out certain varieties such as the Ash tree. We discussed the possibility of expanding the

inventory to private property (with owner's permission). The idea of GVSU students participating in a tree inventory or other projects was mentioned.

8. Meeting adjourned 7:55 PM