

## **Sustainability and Energy Commission Minutes 9/8/22**

A regular meeting of the Sustainability and Energy Commission was held on Thursday Sept. 8, 2022 in the Grand Haven City Council Chamber.

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

Absent: Pam Blough

Others Present: Eric Law, Ashley Latsch, 3 members of the public

1. Meeting called to order by Brittany Goode at 6:02 PM
2. Roll Call
3. Previous Meeting Minutes (8/16/22) amended and approved.
4. Introduction of Kelly Parker, GVSU professor of Environmental and Sustainability Studies. Dr. Parker is looking for opportunities for his students to participate with community partners to do real world research and problem-solving. Discussion regarding the possibility of GVSU students assisting the SEC with projects related to MI Green Communities (MGC) action items.

### Agenda

1. Recap of meeting between Brittany Goode, Ashley Latsch and Brian Urqhart. The Open Meetings Act does not apply to the sub-committees of the SEC as long as there is no quorum, no votes taken and no decisions made. A summary of the Sub-committee findings will be brought to full SEC committee to discuss recommendations to be made to the City Manager. Goode also met with Brian Urqhart regarding current status and potential future of MGC items.
2. Energy Update. Ryan Cotton gave a presentation on a proposed Community Energy Plan (CEP) to reduce Grand Haven's carbon footprint. The CEP identifies 3 main facets: a) Obtain a scientific baseline of carbon data for BLP area. b) Facilitation/coordination of

focus groups to obtain community input. c) Formulate strategies for efficiencies and implementation. Cotton asked for a motion to approve a sub-committee to work on the CEP. Nelsen seconded. Motion passed (7-0).

3. Sub-Committee Selection. Discussion to create 4 task forces: Earth, Wind, Fire, and Water. These task forces may be broken down into 1 or more subcommittees. The “Earth” task force will focus on land use and sustainability. The “Wind” task force will focus on community engagement. The “Fire” task force will focus on the Community Energy Plan. The “Water” task force will focus on protecting our water as a natural resource in Grand Haven. The following people volunteered to facilitate one of the task forces: John Kinch (Earth), David Mann (Wind), Ryan Cotton (Fire), and Dan Small (Water). Cotton suggested a motion to create 4 task forces; seconded by Small. Motion passed 7-0.
4. Open seats. Currently there are 8 members of the SEC. Discussion about potential new members for the SEC. Interested candidates will need to complete an on-line application (available on the City Website under boards and commissions). The City Manager will make the decision to name new members to the SEC.
5. Mission Statement. Committee members discussed a draft mission statement written by Dan Small. Suggestions were discussed and made. Nelsen made motion to accept revised Mission Statement, seconded by Mann and approved by vote (7-0). Revised Mission statement:

*Through education, communication, and planning, the City of Grand Haven Sustainability and Energy Commission shall endeavor to assist the City of Grand Haven--as well as its business community, local institutions, residents, and visitors--with the conservation and restoration of natural resources and sensitive habitats, reduction of waste, and support for community driven clean energy solutions while fostering responsible growth.*

6. Meeting dates: The second Thursday of every month. Next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 13, 2022.
7. Notification about an upcoming Citizens' Climate Lobby program, "Electrify Everything", at the Spring Lake Library on Oct. 18th.
8. Meeting adjourned at 19:57