

Sustainability and Energy Commission Minutes 10/13/22

A regular meeting of the Sustainability and Energy Commission was held on Thursday Oct. 13, 2022 in the Grand Haven City Council Chamber.

Present: Brittany Goode, Patti Nelsen, John Kinch, Nancy O'Neill, David Mann, Pam Blough, Dan Small, and Bob Monetza

Absent: Ryan Cotton

Others Present: Eric Law, Ashley Latsch, 7 members of the public

A. Meeting Called to Order by Brittany Goode 6:01 PM

B. Roll Call

C. Previous Meeting Minutes (9/8/22) approved 8-0

Agenda

1. **Wind Team** Goode and Mann met with several members of the High School GREEN group regarding ideas to work together on community projects. Currently the GREEN Team is working on creating a Butterfly Garden at the High School.
2. **Fire Team** Mann provided a recap of a CEP task force meeting. We have extended an invitation to potential community partners (BLP, Spring Lake Township, Ferrysburg) to attend our next task force meeting on Oct. 25th at noon.
3. **Water Team**: O'Neill contacted City Council to make suggestions about providing clarity on the Water Bill, and to consider inserts to encourage consumers to conserve water. Student Project: Two students from **GVSU** were in the audience, and they will be working with the task force on suggestions about how to make the water bills more informative and useful, so as to reduce water waste. There was also discussion about Community Outreach to explain why conservation is necessary due to "capacity" concerns during peak demand morning hours in the summer.

4. **Earth Team:** Kinch plans to meet with the City Planner, Brian Urquhart, to coordinate SEC recommendations with the Master Plan. The SEC also discussed Grand Haven's current recognition as Tree City USA, and potential plan to apply for *Tree City of the World* which is international recognition for leadership in urban & community forestry. Dan Small explained the challenges and effort involved in identifying all the trees in GH's public areas.
5. Goode provided information about the Terracycle cigarette recycling program. This led to a discussion about how some communities have banned cigarette smoking on beaches and perhaps Grand Haven may want to consider this. Discussion tabled for now.
6. City Manager Latsch has added Bob Monetza to our Commission and reports that several other people have also applied.
7. Nelsen gave a brief explanation of the Sun-Up Program (individuals who are interested in solar installation on their property can buy together in bulk to lower the costs). The organizers are planning a Sun-Up (via Zoom) presentation to interested community members in January.
8. Motion by Nelsen to approve the proposed SEC calendar to meet the 2nd Thursday of every month. Seconded by O'Neill. Approved 7-0. Next meeting of SEC is Thursday Nov. 10th in City Chambers.
9. Meeting adjourned at 7:47