



City of Woodland

**SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 12, 2020
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Mark Aulman, Christine Casey, Rolf Frankenbach, Liza Grandia, Allison Martin, Catalina Munoz, Sara Schremmer, Raul Tadle, Robert Ullrey

Absent: None

Staff Present: Ken Loman

3. Public comment

None.

4. Member reports

Aulman: Mark noted that at a meeting of the City Council in February, Liza and he addressed the Council on an item regarding athletic turf replacement at the Sports Park about the necessity of reviewing what chemicals are in such products and suggested the matter be referred to the SAC for review. At the July 21st City Council meeting Councilmember Xochi Rodriguez asked that input from the SAC be included in materials for similar items in the future. Mark expressed concern that there needs to be a mechanism in place for such referrals.

Frankenbach: Rolf informed the committee that the Woodland Tree Foundation recently completed a survey of Valley Oaks within the City.

Grandia: Liza spoke about the importance of representation of environmental issues on the Woodland School Board. She also reminded the committee of the upcoming League of Women Voters (LWV) forum for local office candidates. The LWV is soliciting questions for the candidates and Liza hoped that committee members would submit questions pertaining to sustainability.

Ullrey: Robert expressed agreement with Mark's concern regarding the need for opportunities for the committee to provide input into appropriate Council decisions.

5. Staff reports

Ken Loman acknowledged the importance of creating and maintaining channels for Committee input to City staff, but expressed concern that routing communications through staff could slow some communication. He noted that Committee minutes will now go to the City Council monthly. Raul Tadle asked if the Committee would have the opportunity to review the minutes before they went to City Council. Mark Aulman stated that this

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review should be expedited so that the minutes were still timely when Council received them.

Ken also shared that he is working to finish reviews of both the Climate Action Plan Story Map and the Outreach Framework to be able to pass them along to the committee. The Outreach Framework in particular needs additional work to incorporate feedback from the Outreach Subcommittee on an overview of the framework presented to the subcommittee by CivicSpark Fellow Jianelli Morones.

6. Approve minutes for July 8, 2020

On a motion by Mark Aulman, seconded by Raul Tadle, and carried unanimously on a 9-0 vote, committee members approved the minutes for the July 8, 2020 meeting.

Ayes: Aulman, Casey, Frankenbach, Grandia, Martin, Munoz, Schremmer, Tadle, and Ullrey

Noes: None

7. Work plan development subcommittee updates

1. Work Plan Development for Sustainability Policy and Climate Action Plan (CAP) Implementation Feedback to City Council: Munoz (coordinator), Tadle, Ullrey

The subcommittee has not met since the last committee meeting.

2. Work Plan Development for Sustainability Program Design and Implementation Advisement and Assistance: Aulman (coordinator), Tadle, Ullrey

The subcommittee has been discussing ways to identify accidental climate and sustainability benefits stemming from the COVID-19 lockdown and how to sustain those past the pandemic. Subcommittee members have also spoken with Ken Loman about ways to include staff in subcommittee meetings and conversations to better understand City programs and resources. Ken will set up a zoom call with the subcommittee.

3. Work Plan Development for Public Input and Feedback on Sustainability and CAP Implementation Issues & Community-Wide CAP Implementation Assistance: Grandia (coordinator), Aulman, Munoz

The subcommittee recommended the committee combine subcommittees 3 and 4, and also discussed exploring ways to increase interactivity regarding the City's online presence, such as through social media.

8. Review and discuss Sustainability Advisory Committee year one report

The Chair indicated that she had created a draft year one report but had inadvertently neglected to send it out in time for the meeting and would include it in the next meeting.

9. Discuss Waste Management Smart Truck program for residential customers

Waste Management (WM) staff gave a presentation on the upcoming implementation of a residential pilot program using Smart Truck technology to identify overfilled and contaminated recycling and trash containers, and answered questions pertaining to the program. WM indicated that they plan to begin the pilot program on November 1, 2020 that would use the Smart Truck technology to generate letters to educate residents;

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informing them if their containers are identified, what the problem is, what they can do to resolve recurring problems, and that overfilled and contaminated containers may be subject to a surcharge. Such surcharges would begin to be applied to residential accounts beginning on January 1, 2021.

Several Committee members expressed concern that WM’s approach of charging fees to solve the problem seemed overly punitive and raised the idea of an appeal to civic responsibility and a program that rewarded correct bin usage. Waste Management staff stated that their experience has been that programs that reinforce appropriate behavior lose effectiveness over time.

Specific comments from committee members included (in the order of speaking):

Tadle: Raul stated that the auditing process used to assess contamination should be double-blind so that two auditors working independently should both find contamination before a fine is assessed. Waste Management staff indicated that they would look into auditing to determine if this is already being done, and that they would report this back to the Committee.

Martin: Allison asked if the education process would extend past the 60 day pilot phase of the program. WM staff replied that their goal is to eventually have educational labels on all containers, and that they would look into the possibility of including similar flyers with the notice letters.

Grandia: Liza expressed deep reservations about the punitive approach and that what’s missing seems to be civic spirit, such as messaging to highlight that one bad cart can ruin a whole load and we all have to do our part.

Aulman: Mark said he had dropped material off at City Hall for staff related to a campaign he worked on in Santa Clara County some time ago that focused on positive messaging and reinforcement of desired behaviors.

Frankenbach: Rolf asked about geo-coding and the risk of carts being misidentified. WM staff replied that their goal is to have address labels on all carts, and that any cart without one will not be audited.

Munoz: Catalina asked about the timeframe to dispute charges and if WM would return to the committee after the pilot program and share the data they collect with the committee. WM staff replied that there is no specific time frame or limit on disputes and that they will be happy to return and share data after the pilot.

Ullrey: Robert shares Liza’s concerns and stated that he understands about contamination, but is concerned about recycle carts because there is a lot of confusion and many people don’t know what to do, so he would like a longer roll-out for contamination surcharges.

Casey: Christine stated that she felt 60 days isn’t nearly long enough for the pilot/roll-out phase and that the program needs positive messaging and behavior reinforcement.

10. Discuss long-range calendar

The focus of the September meeting will be a presentation on the City’s Urban Forest Master Plan and tree ordinance updates. Election of committee officers and discussion of the year one report were added to that meeting. Extending an invitation to Cool Davis staff to meet with committee and the return of WM with post pilot data were added to the list of unscheduled items for future meetings.

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11. Consider proposed resolution related to exploration of alternatives to potential elimination of City staff positions

[This item was moved to the end of the meeting at the request of Ken Loman, who recused himself from it and left the meeting at this point]

In light of upcoming budget cuts, Mark Aulman prepared a statement supporting retention of City staff positions and function pertaining to environmental sustainability. The Committee discussed whether to send this statement to City Council for consideration. A change to the statement was proposed by Liza Grandia followed by a brief discussion. A motion to present the amended statement to City Council passed unanimously.

12. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

A Resolution of the City of Woodland Sustainability Advisory Committee

August 12, 2020

WHEREAS, the City of Woodland is actively engaged regarding the issues of sustainability and climate change and seeks to establish itself as a leader in sustainability practices attuned to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and increasing resiliency to the effects of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the City of Woodland's 2035 Climate Action Plan (CAP) provides a community-based policy framework to address community-wide GHG emission sources and, to be effective, Climate Action Plan implementation requires a high level of public engagement; and

WHEREAS, the City of Woodland Sustainability Advisory Committee has been chartered by the City Council to foster such community engagement; and

WHEREAS, the City of Woodland Sustainability Advisory Committee recognizes the adverse impacts of budgetary constraints on the City of Woodland; and

WHEREAS, elimination of certain city staff positions have been suggested as one means of potentially addressing these budgetary constraints; and

WHEREAS, these aforementioned City staff positions include the positions of Environmental Sustainability Manager and Deputy Director of Community Development, which are essential to the successful attainment of the City's sustainability goals and the implementation of the Climate Action Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Woodland Sustainability Advisory Committee strongly urges the City Council not to eliminate the positions of Environmental Sustainability Manager, Deputy Director of Community Development, and any and all other staff positions essential to the function of this Committee and to the attainment of Woodland's Climate Action Plan goals.

Ayes: 7

Noes: 0

Signed



Mark Aulman
Vice Chair