

## **Sustainability & Energy Commission Minutes 9/12/24**

A regular meeting of the Sustainability & Energy Commission was called to order by Dan Small at 6:04 PM Thursday, September 12, 2024, in the City Council Chambers.

Present: Brittany Goode, Jean Madden, Jim Mathews, Patti Nelsen, Nancy O'Neill, Dan Small, Andrei Skelly

Absent: Pamela Blough, Ryan Cotton, James Hagen, John Kinch

Also present: Eric Law (Administrative Liaison)

1. Call to audience.

- Nicole Zelinski made public comment recommending that the City consider "Beach Buckets" be available at the City Beach. Anyone can use them to pick up trash on the beach. She brought an example of one, and also pictures of other municipalities that use them. She has also talked with donors who are willing to fund the project.
- Kelly Parker, Professor of Environment & Sustainability at Grand Valley State University, made public comment about a "Capstone Course" at GVSU. Students in an interdisciplinary program (environmental and sustainability studies) partner with a community in a semester long project. There is a student slated for Grand Haven.

2. Previous Meeting Minutes unanimously approved.

## **AGENDA**

1. The SEC discussed the suggestion about "Beach Buckets" for City Beach. In Ottawa County, there are 3 county beaches that have them available to the public. Law will talk to the DPW Director and the City Manager to get feedback about the idea.
2. The SEC discussed possibilities of a GVSU student as an intern to work on a local sustainability project. One idea that was discussed is an "attitude assessment survey" for residents regarding sustainability in Grand Haven. Another idea is to have the student assist with a plan to communicate with the public about the Community Energy Plan.
3. Community Energy Plan (CEP) Update – **Brittany Goode**. Goode reports that the draft for the Community Energy Plan (CEP) has been provided to the CEP steering Committee for review and comments. Next week, there is a meeting of CEP members to provide feedback. Goode has been tracking what the plan has in common in with Michigan Green Communities (MGC) criteria. A draft of the plan will be sent to Danielle Beard, Coordinator of MGC, for additional feedback. O'Neill suggested that a draft of the CEP be sent to everyone on the SEC.

4. Forest Management Taskforce Update – **Jean Madden Drone Flyover Planning:** A scope statement to share with Drone Operators is in the works. Along with the drone pilot, we're also working to determine a flight plan, understand how the data will be analyzed, cost estimates, and who will present the data/recommendations to the City Council with recommendations for next steps. Site Visit by WildType Natives: Is scheduled for Friday, September 13th. The goal is to understand the components of a future Request For Proposal (RFP) and a ballpark estimate of future costs. Sustainable Trail System for Mulligan's Hollow: Discussion about requesting the city to prepare an application for a "Michigan Sparks Grant" to fund the construction of a sustainable trail system in Mulligan's Hollow. Small made a motion for the following resolution, supported by Mathews: "A resolution by the Sustainability and Energy Commission recommends consideration by City Council to submit an application for a Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grant in order to build a sustainable trail system in Mulligan's Hollow. The plan has been developed by the Coordinator of Park Planning and Development for Ottawa Parks but requires funding for implementation." The vote was unanimous in favor of the resolution. Tree Treatment and Removal: Larry Burns (Department of Public Works Intern and member of the Forest Management Subcommittee) is working with city staff to prioritize the money budgeted by the City (75K LFC and 125K MH) to treat infected trees and remove dead trees which pose a public safety threat. LVAC Artist Pop-Up Sale: The Lakeshore Visual Arts Collective is having a pop-up sale on September 22nd and has offered "Save our Forests" the opportunity to staff a table in support of our mission.

**Other Business:**

- L-Grow completed an assessment of Aldea Coffee to determine if there are ways to reduce water at the downtown building. Its a free assessment and there may be other businesses that would like to be involved.
- Discussion about the plant boxes along Washington Ave. The plants are thrown away in the trash at the end of every summer season. The possibility of suggesting to the City that Native Plants be planted in them was discussed.
- Most of the members of the Earth Day Committee are retiring and they are hoping that some younger people are willing to volunteer for it. The Community Center won't be available next year to host the Earth Day Community Fair.

**Final Call to Audience:** No public comments.

**Adjourn:** Small made a motion to adjourn at 7:04. Mathews supported. Unanimous approval.