

COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM COMMITTEE (CSPC) MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 4, 2020  
5:00 PM  
VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

**Committee Members Present:** Chair Sara Pesek, Rajesh Kapileshwari, Keyra Williams, Denise Terry, Amber Baker, Stephanie Friede, Leah Lavin, Lee Stackhouse

**Committee Members Absent:** Allison Bowling, Angela Young, Dane Kuppinger

**Attendance of City Staff:** Helen Peplowski, Director of Operations Johnnie Taylor, Council Member Mundy

Chair Sara Pesek calls the meeting to order at 5:09.

Roll Call.

Rajesh moved to approve December meeting minutes, Leah seconds. Committee approves December meeting minutes.

Sara asks the committee to begin sub-committee report outs.

Helen Peplowski, staff support to the committee, begins by reviewing the recycling sub-committee meeting, which focused on ways to reduce contamination. The sub-committee recognized the importance of recycling education and discussed the idea of creating a series of videos to address common questions about recycling. The sub-committee also considered more targeted efforts by putting guidelines on a cart sticker for residents.

Stephanie Friede, a member of the recycling sub-committee, explains that the videos would be more of a funny and entertaining way of addressing ‘conundrums’ of recycling. She also added the cart stickers could remind residents that ‘when in doubt, throw it out.’

Sara asks about other educational efforts such as mass mailings of recycling guidelines and including information about where to take items not accepted in curbside program.

Rajesh Kapileshwari asks about setting up downtown business recycling. Helen explains that the current program only collects small businesses in the city, so this is not an option in the current recycling contract.

Denise Terry suggests tours of recycling facilities for the public, and providing a recycling bin for inside the home. Denise also suggests sending guidelines in water bills.

Rajesh asks if there was any conversation in the sub-committee on composting. Helen says this was not part of the sub-committee discussion. This is not a program the city is currently set up to handle, and Gallins has a residential program established already.

Denise adds that individuals can learn to compost in their own yards rather than participating in a city-wide program.

Council Member Mundy suggests bringing the question to the Urban Food Policy Council.

Sara asks the Green Jobs sub-committee to review their meeting next. Leah Lavin offers to provide that overview. The sub-committee talked about what their goals would be that could then be included in the full committee's work plan. The sub-committee also wanted to identify who in the city are already working on green jobs and equity. They see their role as assisting groups to coordinate and raise awareness in this space. There is space to provide education to people on a neighborhood level who could fill green job openings and those hiring in the green jobs sector. Finally, the sub-committee would monitor any potential federal assistance for this topic.

Lee adds that he already spoke to the Forsyth Tech Director of Small Businesses who would be interested in working with the sub-committee on green jobs to help educate those businesses on the topic.

Sara and Rajesh discuss the Green Drinks event as a way to further involve the community in these efforts.

Amber mentions there could be legislative opportunities for funding to support these opportunities.

There was clarification that the sub-committee wants to focus on both green workforce development as well as drawing more green jobs to the city.

Rajesh emphasized the importance of providing resources about green job opportunities and education about the sector to the community. Denise agrees.

Sara asks the transportation sub-committee to report out. Rajesh shares that he and Lee created a list of thoughts/questions involving the topics of:

- continuing teleworking to reduce the use of cars
- city fleet improvements related to alternative fuels
- city buses going electric
- automated vehicle locators which the city is already doing
- electric vehicle charging infrastructure for the city fleet and public
- mass transit options such as expanded bike lane networks, trolleys, and transit to airports
- pedestrian and bike lane improvements

Rajesh understands there is a lot of work being done on transportation, so they wanted to know what they should focus their work on, while also considering social justice.

Helen reiterates the point that many groups are working on transportation.

Rajesh asks if there are plans or projects that need funding. Helen can only speak to electric vehicle work as other agencies oversee the other topics and she is applying for grant assistance for that infrastructure.

Sara asks Keyra to present on the tree canopy sub-committee meeting. She and Dane Kuppinger discussed needing to identify what the city's current tree canopy is, how to protect it, and developing a plan to increase it as they were unaware if any of this work has been done already by the city. They discussed meeting with schools/universities to assist with getting that data in order. Protecting the tree canopy involved a discussion around pesticides and potentially merging that conversation into Bee City USA work. Replacing deforested areas that have resulted from development in the city and on city property and reaching out to the appropriate agencies for assistance was discussed. The idea of no net losses in the tree canopy would also guide any plans to complete a study. All of this work would not have to be done regularly/annually.

Rajesh reminds the committee of the opportunity to improve the Tree Save Area policy the city has.

Helen responds to Keyra's points that the city doesn't have a tree canopy assessment at this point, but would be willing to invite a speaker to their next sub-committee meeting to elaborate more on the current work being done.

Helen also reminds the committee that before they are able to establish whether or not the current Tree Save Area policy is effective, there needs to be a tree canopy assessment to show this, which is why the work of the subcommittee is important.

Leah asks if education can also be considered by this sub-committee to educate the public on how to properly care for trees on residential property. Also emphasizing the quantifiable benefits of trees.

Keyra adds that the sub-committee also talked about working with WSFCS schools to help maintain trees nearby at parks/forested areas and incorporating tree education into their classes.

Sara says she will update the annual report with information from the sub-committees. Helen adds that the goal is to submit this report to be submitted by June.

Helen shares Bee City USA updates. They have a required annual report which will be done by the end of the month. Keep Winston-Salem Beautiful (KWSB) added more native pollinator plants into their Flower Bed program. Her sustainability update shares that she is working on completing the annual ACEEE reporting which was completed in 2020 for the first time.

Sara reminded subcommittees to meet before the next full committee meeting and to invite Helen as staff support.

Meeting adjourns at 6:11.