

COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM COMMITTEE (CSPC) MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 3, 2020
5:00 PM
VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

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

Committee Members Absent: Angela Young, Dane Kuppinger

Attendance of City Staff: Helen Peplowski, Director of Operations Johnnie Taylor

Chair Sara Pesek calls the meeting to order at 5:05.

Roll Call.

Sara reviewed the email vote for the Clean Renewable Energy Resolution that occurred at the end of October that supported a language adjustment to the resolution. The resolution then went back to the General Government Committee, where it was approved, sent to the November 16 City Council Meeting and was approved as part of the consent agenda.

Sara asked if anyone has received feedback in response to the approved resolution. Helen Peplowski, staff support, heard from Duke Energy representatives that they support the new goals and that they shared a brief snapshot of the current energy make up of the city's energy use.

Sara asks if Wake Forest has a renewable energy goal. Rajesh Kapileshwari says he can get a report for more detailed renewable energy information, but they have already met Paris Climate Agreement goals. Rajesh also mentions that he wrote a letter to the editor [for the Winston-Salem Journal] since there was no other media coverage on the topic.

Rajesh says that while he hasn't heard any specific feedback after passing the resolution, he remembers past comments from Council Member Larson related to electric vehicles, and a request around LEDs and energy efficiency data from Council Member Clark.

Helen says that her office is taking care of the request from Council Member Clark in January.

Committee members briefly discuss possible ways to further publicize the passing of the resolution and newly established clean renewable energy goals.

Sara suggests the committee break out into small groups around different topics that there has been interest in from both council members and CSPC members, like green jobs and equity. This is also a way to address some of the specifics that were removed from the resolution.

Denise is interested in participating in the green jobs group. Leah would also like to be part of that same group.

Sara talked to certain groups in the community that would be interested in having zoom calls with the committee on topics like spatial justice. Committee members have a brief discussion around that phrase and how it relates to gentrification and equity concerns for certain residents/areas.

Sara asks if Amber, or anyone else, knows which city offices or community groups are working on equity issues. Amber believes these topics are part of more informal community conversations, rather than being led by any one group. Amber recommends speaking with Terri LeGrand on the equity issue.

Sara asks if anyone else would like to be part of the green jobs and equity group. Rajesh says he will join if needed, although it isn't his forte. Sara recommends reaching out to community groups to put together information on what groups are doing this work so the committee doesn't replicate anything that has already been done. Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods is recommended as a resource, as is MapForsyth for maps of community assets and resources.

Stephanie is interested in working on recycling contamination and asks if others are also interested in this. Allison is interested in working on that as well. Stephanie asks if the need is more of a campaign or figuring out what is going wrong.

Johnnie says there are a couple of things we are looking for. One is to encourage more people to recycle, and the second piece is educating residents on the proper way to recycle and demonstrate the negative impacts of contamination.

Members have a discussion around where recyclables go and what happens to the material and how recycling is a market-based business.

Stephanie says it could be a good time to make conversations like this public to inform residents of what happens when they recycle. She asks what format would be best for a campaign like this. Johnnie says the city has used every media type in the past to get the information to the public.

Allison says that there are a lot of ins and outs of recycling and there is opportunity to work with end users to help make it easier to understand recycling.

Sara suggests both Stephanie and Allison connect with Helen and Johnnie to further discuss the recycling program and work as a sub-committee.

Helen takes the opportunity to explain the legality of a formal subcommittee and ad-hoc subcommittees and that she needs to be present at each subcommittee meeting.

Sara asks for clarification around how many members can be on a subcommittee without violating open meeting rules. Helen says she is still researching the details of the open meeting rules as they apply to subcommittees, but believes as long as membership is less than a quorum, it is okay.

Lee is interested in joining a subcommittee but is still hesitant because he wants to make sure equity is addressed in each subcommittee. He is volunteering for the equity committee, but recommends each group address the topic.

Sara agrees and invites members to speak up if they ever feel the committee is not properly addressing equity.

Keyra asks if the tree canopy topic is still available as she wants to be part of that group. Sara recommends she and Dane form that subcommittee and work with Helen on it as it is part of the Internal Sustainability Action Plan.

The committee briefly discusses the reasoning behind completing a tree canopy and how it could benefit the city.

Amber asks how long each committee member's terms are, as it may impact the subcommittees. Helen recommends members check the website for when they rotate off since the normal two-year term length isn't true for everyone.

Lee asks if there has been any discussion around E85 (flex hybrid cars) or electric cars. Rajesh suggests maybe they create a transportation ad-hoc subcommittee as well to further discuss that. Rajesh also says these ad-hoc committees can help them form work plans. Helen says she has some examples of work plans from other city boards and committees that have subcommittees for reference if needed.

Rajesh would be willing to join the transportation subcommittee since several council members had mentioned that topic.

Sara identifies the four subcommittees mentioned so far as green jobs and equity, recycling, tree canopy and transportation. She encourages members to try to meet with their subcommittees in the next few weeks as a preliminary discussion.

Rajesh asks about food access being a topic they address. Helen says that there is the Urban Food Policy Council and a staff member who works on this topic. Exploring those meetings would be a good place to start for anyone who wants to find out what work is already being done on food. Sara says they can keep this topic in mind after researching further.

Sara asks for a call to approve the minutes from October. Rajesh identifies a couple of changes that involved removing a word and changing the name of a group.

Leah moves to approve. Lee seconded. Minutes approved.

Sara adjourns the meeting at 6:04.