

Sustainability and Energy Commission Minutes 1/12/23

A regular meeting of the Sustainability and Energy Commission was held on Thursday January 12, 2023 in the Grand Haven City Council Chamber.

Present: Brittany Goode, Dan Small, Patti Nelsen, John Kinch, Nancy O'Neill, David Mann, Christian Miller, Addy Knoth-Miller, Pam Blough, Jim Mathews, Bob Monetza and Ryan Cotton

Others present: Eric Law, Brian Urquhart, and 7 members of the public.

- Meeting Called to Order by Goode
- Roll Call.
- Introduction of Audience Members

Previous Meeting Minutes(11/10/22) approved

Agenda

1. Jim Mathews introduced himself as a new member of the SEC. He previously served on the Planning Commission. He has a strong interest in Forestry and

Green Space.

2. Virchew Carbon Labeling Initiative presentation by Clayton Glasglow. Clayton explained that the three college students who worked on this project are all local. They received a grant from WMSBF and hope to collaborate with the SEC for support and endorsements to City Council and local restaurants as they expand their initiative. Lucy's Deli welcomed them to use their menu for the pilot project. This project helps restaurants assess the carbon footprint of the food they serve. The purpose: "To be the catalyst of insight for non-chain restaurants who believe in sustainable practices and share a passion to make a difference for their customers and the global footprint. A bottom-up approach one community at a time." Virchew does not directly lower the carbon footprint of any business or meal; it allows consumers to make a more carbon conscious purchase.

3. Michigan Green Communities Update. Goode explained that additional action items have been completed since Grand Haven's original submission. At that time, we received a recognition as a "Silver Award" city. Urquhart and Goode have a virtual meeting with MGC's accelerator program starting next week to learn about how to achieve Gold status.

Urquhart has also applied for a “fellow” (graduate student intern at UM) to assist the City with a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan. Urquhart requested volunteers from the SEC to sit on the “Plan Review Team”. Kinch and Monetza volunteered.

4. **Water Team Update:** O’Neill reported on the Ottawa Conservation District event about predicted ground water challenges; announced that at the February meeting, Dr. Kelly Parker would present the GVSU students’ water conservation recommendations for Grand Haven households; and suggested ways Grand Haven could meet water reduction standards for the Michigan Green Communities evaluation.
5. **Earth Team Update:** Kinch suggested that the SEC work with Urquhart on issues related to the new proposed Master Plan for the City. One area that can be looked at is ordinances for new construction that includes sustainability planning. Mathews has offered to be on the Earth task force and could be a liaison to support the City’s Healthy Forest Management Plan. The plan is available on the City’s website.
6. **Wind Team Update:** Mann reports that the goals of the Wind task force are consistent with MGC Action items Communicate Best Practices, Meaningful

Community Engagement, and Inspire Action. He is planning for Earth Day events in Grand Haven April 29th. Knoth-Miller volunteered to be on the Wind Task Force with Mann to help with social media.

- 7. Fire Team Update:** The Fire task force has met 3 times to date. It includes 2 GHBLP employees, two members from the Ferrysburg City Council, and 1 Spring Lake Township Council member. Cotton explained that there is broad based support for a Community Energy Plan for the Grand Haven Board of Light and Power Service Area. He has applied for a grant from the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation (GHAFC) on behalf of the City of Grand Haven with the advance support of City Manager Latsch and Patti Nelsen. Moved by Mann and supported by Small to retroactively recommend to the City Manager to apply for a \$25,000 grant for a Community Energy Plan from the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation, consistent with the earlier discussion of the SEC at the November 10th regular meeting and following a recommendation from the Community Energy Plan Task Force.* Unanimous approval on roll call vote (O'Neill, Kinch, Mathews, Miller, Knoth-Miller, Cotton, Nelsen, Goode). Cotton also indicated that there may be an upcoming EGLE grant that we can apply for in a manner that will enable the SEC and the City to review in advance. (*Note:

This discussion and motion came after all members of the SEC discussed the concept of going for a CHACF grant at their November 10th regular meeting and after being invited for a presentation of Holland Community Energy Plan officials at the Community Energy Plan Task Force meeting on December 8th.)

8. Discussion about having a Grand Haven Tribune Sustainability Column. Discussion tabled for now. Goode will be on Shelly Irwin's show (WGVU radio) on Wednesday morning to talk about Grand Haven and Sustainability.
9. Meeting adjourned 8:00 PM