

**George Solley**  
Chair



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**Sarah Hurst**  
Vice Chair

**Kimberly Bastress**  
Secretary

## **MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, September 11, 2023

6:30 p.m.

In person - City Hall Conference Room

### **Attendees:**

**Commissioners:** George Solley (Chair), Sarah Hurst (Vice Chair), Kimberly Bastress (Secretary), Damian Cobey (Clean Committee Chair), Robert Courtnage (Sustainability Committee Chair), Mike Blashford (Arborist), Jonathan Stevens

**Ex-officio Members:** Hope Mikelson (R-Board)

**Meeting called to order at 6:31 PM**

### **Business Items:**

### **Agenda**

#### **1. Public Comments**

- a. Julie Kay shared information about the upcoming Climate Conference at UMW in February 2024. The event will be more adult driven than in the past. She asked that members reach out with any suggestions or ideas. She also asked if the commission would like to host a presentation or contribute in other ways to the conference. She announced an anti-fossil fuels March on September 17.
- b. The Bee City presentation was postponed to October.

#### **2. Old Business**

- a. The updated Clean and Green Purpose and Mission have been submitted to the City for review and approval.
- b. Letter in support of Share the Air - George Solley is in touch with the commonwealth and the city to see what the response will be regarding the effort.

- c. Website fees have been paid and the commission was informed the site updates would be completed by the end of September.
- d. August 30 presentation at Food Co-op - George Solley presented at the Co-op and shared the final presentation with the Commission. The presentation is also available on the Commission share drive.
- e. Report to City Council - update provided for October City Council meeting.
- f. New intern - The Commission has worked to update the role of the intern and include more substantive activities including research, developing website and social media content and is working to transfer the cigarette butler and dog waste bag distribution tasks.
- g. Tree Fredericksburg Native Tree Sale September 23 - Seeking volunteers to table at the event.
- h. FY 24 Commission priorities are on hold pending Green Committee feedback and updates.
  - i. Climate Action Areas - George Solley provided a document outlining a shift in the commission to address climate change. The document compares the City's comprehensive plan and the goal to expand the commission to develop sustainable/livability policies and recommendations. There was broad consensus and support on adding climate change.

### 3. Committee Updates

#### a. Clean Committee – Damian Cobey

- i. With Christi's departure, Damian will resume chair responsibilities.
- ii. R-Board will begin collecting waste from the Cigarette Butlers and distribute the Mutt Mitt bags.
- iii. Announced that R-Board will be at the Food Co-op on Sunday with their interactive educational trailer.
- iv. Proposed inviting City Council and staff to attend Landfill tours.
- v. Announced collaboration with new garden plan at Hugh Mercer Elementary School
- vi. Proposed creating a local home sustainability award similar to the Pearl program as a companion to the existing Sustainability Award for businesses.

#### b. Green Committee – *Mike Blashford*

- i. New city arborist is focusing on development of an urban forest plan. They are seeking to develop stronger, conservation minded tree ordinances.
    - ii. George will provide updates as available regarding the status of the Sustainability Manager position and will request the Renewable Energy Resolution report that was slated for July 2023.
  - c. Sustainability Committee – *Robert Courtnage*
    - i. Solarize campaign is ending. Sarah Hurst is working to create videos of people who went through the Solarize progress for social media. Fifty people showed interest in the program with two committed contracts.
    - ii. Working with the Food Co-op to see what model of solar would work best for their location.
    - iii. Schools will be hosting a ceremony regarding electric buses on September 25. Discussion around possible additional grant options.
  - d. Composting Working Group – *George Solley*
    - i. Did not meet this month.
- 4. Next Meeting: 6:30 PM, October 2, 2023