**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**

**FRANKLIN SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION**

**APRIL 21, 2015**

The Franklin Sustainability Commission held a regular meeting on Tuesday April 21, 2015, at 4:00 p.m., in the Community Development Conference Room.

**Members Present**: Mathue Bean, Chair L.K. Browning,

Mayor Ken Moore, Ken Scalf, Karina Young

**Members Absent:** Brian Miller, Vice Chair Matt Bryant, Bob Moreo,

**Present Via Conference Call:** Teresa Ashworth-Harris, Miles Mennell

**Visitors:** Jennifer Gosciniak, Keep Williamson Beautiful

Emily West, Franklin Home Page

**Staff Present**: Andrew Orr, Brenda Woods

**Call to Order/Introductions**

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**Chair Browning** presented the March 17, 2014 minutes for consideration.

**Ms. Young** moved to approve the March 17, 2014, minutes, Mr. Bean seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously (5-0).

**Keep Williamson Beautiful Update**

**Mr. Orr** introduced Ms. Jennifer Gosciniak, of Keep Williamson Beautiful (KWB), the volunteer division of the Williamson County Solid Waste Department.

The Sustainability Commission introduced themselves to Ms. Gosciniak.

**Ms. Gosciniak** stated that KWB is the volunteer division of the Williamson County Solid Waste Department and an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful since 2001, the nation’s leading nonprofit in sustainability. She showed and discussed a PowerPoint presentation regarding how KWB ties in with Williamson Recycles and how they offer many opportunities to promote beautification, litter-prevention, recycling and community greening. The four focus areas of KWB are: litter prevention, beautification and community greening, waste reduction and recycling, and education. She also discussed community events, the merit program, and seasonal education programs. The KWB website is [www.keepwilliamsonbeautiful.org](http://www.keepwilliamsonbeautiful.org)

**Mayor Moore** stated that he had received a call from a lady yesterday who was concerned with litter, and this discussion helped him get a lot of answers.

**Ms. Gosciniak** stated that Mayor Moore could turn this lady over to her, and she would be happy to help.

**Mayor Moore** stated that he would copy Ms. Gosciniak on his email to the lady.

**Mr. Orr** asked about roadside cleanup and adopting a road.

**Ms. Gosciniak** stated KWB works with the Adopt a Road program. An email would need to be emailed to her telling her how many volunteers there would be for a given Saturday. She will bring the safety vest, etc., used by the volunteers. On very large jobs, the sheriff’s department will be called to help pick up the bags afterwards.

**Mr. Orr** asked about actually adopting a road.

**Ms. Gosciniak** stated that this was not her department, and she had not had anyone previously ask her that question. Discussion ensued regarding this.

**Announcements:**

* **May Meeting**

Mr. Orr discussed the May meeting.

**Chair Browning** stated that Mayor Moore and she had met previous to this meeting and had discussed a couple of different things. One of the discussion items was is there anything that the Commission is doing that it does not need to do, and is there something that it should be doing that it is not doing. One thing would be a monthly meeting for the sake of a monthly meeting does not make a lot of sense. The Commission knows it will have a June agenda because of the field trip to Nashville. Chair Browning would propose to forgo the May meeting, if an agenda has not been set, unless someone has something that needs to be addressed. She wanted to offer this as a possibility and open the floor for a response.

**Ms. Mennell** asked if Mayor Moore would be joining the Sustainability Commission on the June 16 field trip to Nashville to see Ms. Nancy Whittemore, Director of General Services for the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County.

**Mayor Moore** stated that it looked as though his calendar was open.

**Ms. Mennell** will send Mr. Orr the directions to Metro General Services, and he will forward to the Sustainability Commission.

**Mayor Moore** stated there were some important issues going on in the community right now, including:

* Greenways, trails, and connectivity
* Follow-up to the Franklin Tomorrow Visioning Trip
* The Governor has made Franklin one of nine pilot communities in the state to be a healthier community.

He thought those were good opportunities for the Sustainability Commission to tag on and fit them to sustainability initiatives. This would not mean that the Commission would have to re-create anything, it would just be part of the coalition and make some contribution to it.

**Mayor Moore** stated that Lisa Clayton could update the Sustainability Commission on the greenways and Mindy Tate could talk about healthier communities for the May meeting. That would be important information to figure out how the Sustainability Commission could be involved.

**Chair Browning** stated that those would be worthy agenda items, and if one or both could be pulled together for the May meeting she would recommend having a May meeting; however, if they are unable to meet she would suggest that the Commission not have a May meeting.

**Chair Browning** asked Ms. Ashworth-Harris if the dial in number that she was using could be used with Commission members for future meetings, and she thought it would be fine.

* **June Meeting**

Mr. Orr stated that he would get the invitation meeting out to the Commission for the June 16 trip to Nashville,

* **State of the City 4/22/15**

Mr. Orr stated that the State of the City presentation would be on Wednesday, April 22 at the Factory in Jamison Hall with breakfast starting at 7:00 a.m. Mayor Moore’s speech will start at 7:45 a.m.

* **Franklin Land Use Plan Update**

**Mr. Orr** stated that he had included some information in the email about the Franklin Land Use Plan (FLUP). The FLUP is the over-arching guiding document that looks at growth patterns, where growth should occur, and how much growth should occur in certain areas. It is somewhat of a loose document, but it is definitely a guiding document for staff so this is an important update. The meetings will be at Carnton, Eastern Flank, on May 4, 5, and 6, starting each night at 6:00 p.m. and ending at 8:00 p.m.

* **Term Limits**

**Mr. Orr** stated that he had attached contact information with term limits. He wanted each member to review it, make sure it looks correct, and email with any corrections.

**Goals for the Year**

**Chair Browning** stated that this conversation was started last month. There was some good information in the meeting minutes last month about what individuals thought. She and Mr. Scalf had discussed goals, and she asked Mr. Scalf if he wanted to discuss this.

**Mr. Scalf** stated that with all of the growth that Franklin is having with the current codes that are in place and no specific requirement relative to sustainability only complying with the international energy code as an encouragement, a volunteer survey could be given to developers when they come to Building and Neighborhood Services for the first time. It could be stated that Franklin is a sustainable community, and staff has desires to advance this. The following questions could be asked:

* What have you considered as strategies for your new facility?
* What would you consider, and how can the City of Franklin help you facilitate that?
* If the City cannot regulate or mandate, how can it just advocate.

**Chair Browning** stated that by asking the question, “do you have a stated sustainability policy and what are your plans?’ That would communicate that this is important to Franklin as a community.

**Mr. Orr**, Mayor Moore, and Mr. Gerth had a discussion about this today.

**Mr. Orr** stated that he thought there was interest on the City’s part to ask the question, and there are some processes in place to where this concept could be incorporated and asked the question. This could be the beginning of maybe taking it farther in the future with incentives.

**Mr. Scalf** stated that it was a first step, and he would ask the individuals to give staff some feedback on does the culture of the individual’s company embrace this, and how do they normally go about doing this.

**Mayor Moore** asked about the current survey.

**Mr. Orr** stated that it was just basic contact information and information about the site. The existing staff could be used, and that was on the front end. This could possibly be captured again when they go to pull building permits in the Building and Neighborhood Services Department.

**Ms. Young** asked if there were any suggested measures that individuals could use to take it one step farther

**Mr. Scalf** stated that his personal opinion was that the Commission would lean towards the LEED system because it is the best known. He stated that he would be willing to put a draft together of questions for the survey.

**Chair Browning** thanked Mr. Scalf for volunteering. The survey will be taken offline, and Mr. Scalf will report back to the Sustainability Commission.

**Mr. Scalf** asked to see the existing form, and Mr. Orr will get it to him.

**Chair Browning** stated that what had been important to her this year had been the following:

* How is the Sustainability Commission interacting with the Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BOMA)?
* How does the BOMA view this Commission?
* How can this Commission position itself to be a better resource for the BOMA to have them think about the Sustainability Commission a little more often than it currently does?

Hopefully, over time it might be that the type of relationship could be built when the BOMA relies on the Sustainability Commission to vet certain things that might come their way. It seems that it would be a good habit to go to the BOMA Worksession either three or four times a year. When the Sustainability Commission goes to the BOMA for the first time the goal would be to update them on what has been in the Sustainability Commission plans in the past and what has been accomplished. Chair Browning would like to see the Sustainability Commission get more of a presence with the BOMA. It would be a matter of getting on the agenda and forming some type of a rotation. She stated that Mayor Moore agreed and would like to see the Sustainability Commission get more of a presence with the BOMA. It would be a matter of getting on the BOMA agenda and forming some kind of a rotation of which ones of the Commissioners wants to go to the BOMA Worksession to do the presentation.

**Mayor Moore** stated that he thought the Sustainability Commission reporting back to the BOMA was appropriate. Letting the BOMA know the Sustainability Commissioners and their qualifications would give credibility to the Commission.

**Chair Browning** asked if there were any additional goals that did not get added at the March 17 meeting.

**Mr. Orr** stated that he would like to add something about energy efficiency and cost savings and things of that nature.

**Chair Browning** asked what ever happened to the energy assessment that the Commission had discussed.

**Ms. Mennell** stated that she thought seeing Ms. Whittemore, Director of General Services for the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, in June, would generate new conversation.

Discussion ensued on the energy assessment of City Hall.

**Mayor Moore** stated that everyone knew that this building was not efficient, but the City just did not have the funding at this time to replace City Hall.

**Mr. Scalf** stated that Mr. Bryant had volunteered to do the energy assessment, and he would check with him regarding this.

**Mr. Orr** thought that the “Hail Mary” would be converting to LED street lights. He thought it would improve the look of the overall community and make the City more appealing at night to have good, uniform lighting.

**Ms. Ashworth-Harris** stated that she thought if the Sustainability Commission could get all of the lights uniform, and identify some projects that could be done over a period of time toward a goal, the BOMA could support that.

**Mr. Orr** stated that he is waiting to hear back from a grant to convert to LED lights in the Second Avenue Parking Garage.

**Mr. Scalf** asked if there was any point in re-running the ICLEI inventory to see what the impact would be.

**Mr. Orr** stated that probably in the next year or two the Sustainability Commission should do another inventory to see what is or is not being saved.

**Other News/Adjourn**

**Chair Browning** stated that if the Sustainability Commission could get Ms. Clayton and/or Ms. Tate to come speak in May, there would be a May 19 meeting. If they are unable to speak in May, the Commission will try to get them soon thereafter, and there would not be a May meeting.

**Chair Browning** stated that additional work on the BOMA issue would probably require a breakfast meeting, and they would report back to try to get something on the schedule.

**Chair Browning** asked Mr. Orr if he would send her the current Action Plan (in an editable version) that is on the City’s website.

**Ms. Young** asked if the goals would be taken any farther and moved to strategies.

**Mr. Orr** stated that the intent of the goals was to take them farther.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.