

Environmental Sustainability Committee Meeting

July 2nd, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

The following meeting was held electronically pursuant to Emergency Ordinance No. 2020-07.

Per Ordinance No. 2020-07, Section 2.

**Meeting Minutes**

**1. Call to order and welcome**

Meeting called to order by Chair member Judy Fraser at 7:00 p.m.

Type	Name	Attendance
Member	Marian Carroll	Present
Member	Fiona Davies	Present
Member, Chair	Judy Fraser	Present
Member	Timothy Killian	Present
Member	Michael Lee	Present
Member, Vice Chair	Alice Lippert	Present
Fairfax High School Liaison	Nina Ravel	Present
Member	Toby Sorensen	Present
Member	Mitch Sutterfield	Present
Staff	Stefanie Kupka	Present

**2. Public comments**

There were no public comments.

**3. Consideration of the June 4, 2020 meeting minutes**

Toby moved to adopt the meeting minutes, which was seconded by Alice and carried unanimously.

**4. ESC Chair and Vice Chair election**

The following ESC members were elected for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions for a term of nine months commencing on July 2, 2020 and extending through June 2021.

- Chair: Judy Fraser
- Vice-Chair: Alice Lippert

**5. Development review**

- Northfax West: The ESC submitted comments on the Northfax West Development project to the Mayor and City Council on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Comments we also submitted to the Planning Commission and the general inbox for public hearings.

## **6. Natural landscaping ordinance**

The ESC discussed the benefits of the City adopting a natural landscaping ordinance for government and residential properties. Natural landscaping is an approach through which the aesthetic and ecological functions of landscapes installed in the built environment are improved, and through which natural areas are restored by preserving and recreating land and water features and native plant communities.

## **7. Final ESC FY2020 budget**

The final spending summary of the FY2020 ESC budget was distributed to the committee. Stefanie informed the committee they have a budget of \$2,500 to spend in FY2021.

## **8. Nature Conservancy project**

Partnering with the Nature Conservancy is on hold because they've had operational changes associated with COVID-19 and cannot provide the same level of support at this time. The committee discussed organizing an invasive clean up, without support from the Nature Conservancy, in September at a Fairfax City park (possibly Providence Park), followed up by an Arbor Day tree planting event at the same park in October. The location for the invasive clean up event and Arbor Day event will need to be approved by the Parks and Recreation Department.

## **9. City Council environmental goal recommendation**

The Committee plans to submit a letter to the Mayor and City Council recommending they adopt a City Council goal focusing on the environment and sustainability.

## **10. Chairperson's items**

Judy thanked Nina Ravel and Toby Sorensen for their service. She also welcomed the New School Board Representative, Mitchell Sutterfield.

Judy noted that the ESC's Annual Report was adjusted to cover a year and a half time period from January 2019 to June 2020. Moving forward reports will be submitted on a fiscal year schedule.

Judy proposed scheduling a social distancing get together in August at an outdoor location. Judy will coordinate with Stefanie to finalize a date, time and location.

## **11. Committee and student representative items**

Fiona – She updated the committee to let them know that she will be moving out of Fairfax City at the end of the month and that this will be her last meeting as a committee member.

Toby – She noted that she was thankful for her time on the committee and that she learned a lot from the experience. This will be her last meeting as a committee member, since Mitch will be taking over as the ESC School Board Representative.

## **12. City staff items**

- Small Area Plans: On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, the City Council approved the Old Town Fairfax Small Area Plan and the Northfax Small Area Plan. The final plans can be found online. [www.fairfaxva.gov/smallareaplans](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/smallareaplans)
- 2020 Solarize NOVA Campaign: The 2020 Solarize NOVA campaign started June 15<sup>th</sup> and will run through August 31<sup>st</sup>. During this time, property owners can receive free solar satellite assessments; free home energy assessments; bulk discounted pricing on solar energy systems and electric vehicle chargers; access to qualified local solar installers; and virtual informational meetings which makes the process of going solar easy.
- Urban Forestry Program Evaluation Report: The City recently awarded a contract to a consultant, PlanIT Geo, to develop an Urban Forestry Program Evaluation Report. This report is intended to identify the City's goals and priorities for managing its trees and forests; analyze the current status of the city's urban forest resources and its management program; and to identify the methods, resources and personnel that are needed to achieve the City's goals.

## **13. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. Next regular ESC meeting is September 16, 2020 @ 7 p.m.

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