**Sustainability Advisory Committee**

Minutes 9/12/2018

In Attendance: Joel Steward, Dan McNally, Shane Kannar, Nidia Lopez, Cameron Alden, Matt Bacon, Ashlei Bockover, Jay Byers

The minutes of the 8/16/2018 meeting were reviewed and approved by consensus.

The Committee discussed sustainable food production and food waste; potential programs and participants were considered; the topic was considered worthy of future attention.

Dr. Kannar expressed interest in continuing to keep recycling as a priority for the Committee, despite problems being faced in the recycling community worldwide.

Stewart would like to address reducing car traffic; he saw this as a way to reduce the community’s carbon footprint; he would like to see more friendly conditions for foot traffic and have more bike racks throughout the city, particularly downtown.

Dr. Kannar suggested that the Committee should focus on one or two initiatives that would give the Committe a couple of wins and raise its profile in the community.

Due to recent inquiry by the provider of dockless bikes for PSU (VeoRide) Byers brought up the topic of dockless vehicles; this could be considered a sustainability issue; transportation was determined to be less of a priority.

The Committee discussed recycling; they suggested a City initiative to get other organizations involved and set up a challenge; recycling is being done with other orgs – this is currently happening, so we could add to the existing effort; it was suggested to include recycling bins at public areas; three-part receptacles would be required; it would be important to get large groups like the USD to participate; it was asked if there were any grants available to support recycling, and no programs were apparent.

McNally brought up the idea of composting – perhaps create a partnership with CTEC to create composting barrels; it would be necessary to educate the public, then provide tools; half of the food we produce is waste; this would be food composting (no meat); it would be important to identify where is the waste created and what can be done with it.

There was a question about a Pittsburg community garden, what is going on with it?; it is currently inactive and there was discussion about how to get it going again; would it be possible to arrange a pickup, perhaps engaging local farmers

Lopez indicated that Hispanics don’t want to pay for trash service and that we need to focus on their interest; is there a way to get it for free or really cheap? It would be helpful to contact the two Mexican stores in town – they have high traffic, and if they participate it would expand into the broader Hispanic community; any effort would need to include translation; there was a discussion of how joining the recycling center allows you to save money;

There was discussion of the need to create an education campaign – use companies as examples; Dr. Kannar’s business has been able to reduce much of its waste stream; it was suggested that videos are really the best way to spread the word and educate the community; it was also suggested to utilize PSU and Gus – PSU already has a strong program; there was discussion of creating a facebook page.

Byers provided a brief update on the status of creating a municipal electric utility; we are still gathering information and will likely make a decision next year.

Byers provided an update on a regional wastewater initiative, and the Committee indicated that there is a need to show how managing wastewater is a sustainability issue.

Bacon provided an explanation of wastewater treatment and a potential regional approach.

The Committee adjourned at approximately 7:40pm.