**Sustainability Advisory Committee**

Minutes 11/14/2018

In Attendance: Denise Fitzpatrick, Joel Steward, Ashlei Bockover, Dan McNally, Cameron Alden, Matt Bacon, Jay Byers,

The minutes of the 10/10/2018 meeting were approved by consensus.

McNally provided an update of the Climate + Energy Project event at the Bicknell Center. He indicated that the attendance was strong and that the event should be considered a success. There were informative presentations on the changing energy markets and good questions and discussions with attendees.

Stewart said he has created a facebook page for the Sustainability Advisory Committee and that he would be willing to manage it. He is looking for content to post and will work with the Committee to determine how best to use it.

Byers provided an update on the City’s progress in considering a municipal electric utility. The City has engaged a consultant with experience in creating a municipal electric utility to perform a preliminary feasibility study to help the City Commission decide if it is technically and financially justifiable to move forward with a more in-depth analysis of the possibility.

Byers informed the Committee that the City has released a Request for Proposal for a consultant to help create a land use plan. Such a plan would help the City to identify the kind of development that can be expected and the preferable geographic areas of growth. The plan is also expected to provide a high-level analysis of storm water runoff conditions and suggestions for changes to the City’s zoning structure. Traditional zoning regulations are becoming increasingly obsolete as modern business and industry can, in many cases, exist comfortably alongside residential areas.

The Committee was asked to confirm their adoption of the By-Laws previously presented to them. The Committee adopted the By-Laws by consensus.

The Committee considered the election of officers and it was suggested that Dr. Triplett be elected as chairman and McNally as vice-chairman. The Committee approved the election of these two officers by consensus.

The Committee revisited discussion concerning its priorities and indicated that a focus on recycling, sustainable food systems, and education was appropriate. Education was seen as a particularly appropriate effort for a new City Advisory Committee. Working with Pittsburg State University was identified as a potentially high value effort. In addition, working with USD250 to create a curriculum at the high school and even at the elementary school level would help create a sustainability mindset in the community.

The creation of a Sustainability Club in USD250 schools was suggested – ‘Students for Sustainability’. A Sustainability Checklist was identified as a start to engage students and the public. There are Green Schools programs with grants available. Connecting PSU, which has a strong sustainability program, with USD250 was seen as a good way to start a program in the schools. It was suggested that an early project would be to have students design a waste stream tracking program.

There was discussion about the possibility of public outreach regarding sustainability, perhaps a public service announcement and/or a video. This would support the goal of educating the community. The recycling center was offered as a potential subject.

The Committee recommended that the next meeting include a session on setting goals for 2019.

The Committee adjourned at approximately 7:00PM.