

**Sustainability Advisory Committee**

**Minutes**

**October 9, 2019 5:30PM**

In attendance: Jim Triplett, Denise Fitzpatrick, Nancy Scott, George Weeks, Andrew Ouellette, Jay Byers, James Cox

Meeting called to order at 5:32pm

**Meeting location:** City Hall

Welcome and introductions

Approval of the Agenda

Motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda; Motion passed unanimously

**OLD BUSINESS**

Approval of 9/11/19 Minutes

Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes; Motion passed unanimously

Sustainable Cities Conference

Jim Triplett provided some recommendations for what to see at the conference. Drew Taylor, M2M, was recommended since he has a great food production system with aquaponics.

Andrew asked about hotel accommodations. Jay responded that the city can pay for the hotel room.

Andrew and George will be attending the conference.

Update on Recycling Center

Jim Triplett reported that the recycling center hired someone to setup the Styrofoam condenser and it is now working. They are now training people on how to use the condenser. The price being charged is enough to cover cost to operate the machine, including the electricity required. The machine has the potential to divert about 5 tons of Styrofoam a year.

Denise provided an update from the schools. They will continue to use Styrofoam for serving food but do not want to clean the Styrofoam enough so that it can be ran through the condenser.

Jim said that the recycling center has found a source in Canada that will buy some of their plastic. Coincidentally, Pitt Plastics receives material from the Canadian source so the recycling center will see about sending the plastic through the Pitt Plastics supply chain.

The recycling center is working on a joint project with the City and the University to resale large items they receive. The City would move from demolition of buildings to deconstruction. Multiple student organizations at the University as well as the construction department are interested in helping.

Update on Dockless Vehicles

James Cox provided an update that the dockless vehicles ordinance has been presented to the city commission. At the last meeting, the commission voted to table it so that a VeoRide representative could come present and a survey of the public could be conducted.

Update on Public Power

Jay said that negotiations with Westar are ongoing. Pittsburg is still gathering information.

Jim Triplett noted that Westar has been investing more money in the community recently, possibly as a response to the City looking at municipal electricity.

Jay said that the City has met with some energy brokers and that the quotes of the cost to purchase energy was considerably lower than the cost to purchase Westar put out in their report. The City will start putting out information next week.

Future Initiatives for Committee

Nancy Scott mentioned that the loss of pollinators, such as butterflies, is an issue that is being discussed in her circles. This may be something the committee wants to look at.

Jay Byers mentioned that the city can help with a public outreach campaign.

The committee will talk more after the conference.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Denise met with the school district and said that they are all about what is cheapest. There was some interest in the Styrofoam condenser.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Jay Byers announced the Imagine Pittsburg 2030 Open House is to take place on Tuesday, October 15th at 6pm. This is open to everyone and no RSVP is required.

Adjourned at 6:44pm