

**Clean and Green Commission**  
**Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, November 9, 2020**  
**6:30 p.m.**

**Commissioners Attending:** Robert Courtnage (Chair), Michelle Crow-Dolby (Vice-Chair), Kerry Devine (City Council) Christi Carver, Damian Cobey, George Solley, Amanda Stebbins, Holly Chichester, Carolyn Helfrich

**Ex-Officio Members Attending :** Mike Ward (Parks and Rec), Ray Regan (Public Works), Tyler Gelles (Planning Department), Anne Little (Green Subcommittee)

**Presenters/Guests:** Abigail Johnson (C-Pace), Kathleen Dooley (City Attorney), Angela Freeman (Diversity, Equity and Economic Advancement Officer), Julie Kay (Fossil Free Fredericksburg)

The Clean and Green Commission Meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Commission Chairman Robert Courtnage.

The October meeting minutes were motioned for approval by George Solly and seconded by Carolyn Helfrich. There were no correction or additions. The motion to approve passed unanimously.

**C&G Budget for FY2021** - Chairman Courtnage asked Parks and Recreation representative Mike Ward for an update on the budget. Mr. Ward advised that he had just received word today that the intern positions would be reinstated in December and would start in January. Mr. Ward plans to ask Shelby and Heather if they are interested in resuming the work of stocking the mutt mitts, emptying cigarette butt containers, and also outreach and education. Chairman Courtnage inquired if other duties, e.g. website and social media content, might be added to their responsibilities. Mr. Ward believed the job descriptions could move in that direction, once staff was again in place.

Chairman Courtnage introduced Angela Freeman who provided background to the request of both individual and/or full commission response to the previously distributed racial inequity survey. The City is in the third phase of their initiative to address racial inequality and race discrimination. This phase involves strategic planning and survey input is being requested of standing Commissions and Boards, authorities and Task Force memberships within the City. It is hoped that responses may be received by November 18, to be included in the report. Chairman Courtnage asserted that issues like environmental justice and renewable energy, in conjunction with the ongoing solar initiatives in economically challenged areas, would be important to include within the Commission's survey response. Chairman Courtnage will work to respond to the survey before November 18<sup>th</sup>.

**\*Fredericksburg Solarize Update** - Three webinars were held with over 100 participants and 50+ participants have signed up for the program. Ms. Anne Little, who helped coordinate the

program with Chairman, Robert Courtnage, will follow up with the folks who signed up and ask for feedback on the program. Ms. Carver expressed hope that the Architectural Review Board would support residents who live in the historic district and want to install solar. Ms. Little suggested solarize campaigns be held annually.

**\*Sustainability Award** - Ms. Hurst and Ms. Carver are meeting later this week to discuss the status of sustainability awards.

**\* Clean Committee Update:** A fall litter pick up is scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers will meet at Old Mill Park and spread out from there. The R-Board announced an initiative that can utilize volunteers working for three hours, one weekend a month, at the Recycling Center. Training will be provided. There is some confusion about the availability of new cigarette receptacles from Keep Virginia Beautiful. Mr. Ward says the parks could use more. Ms. Crow-Dolby has done a survey downtown and identified where new ones are needed and where broken ones need to be replaced. It is estimated that 20-30 more could be utilized. Chairman Courtnage will follow up with Keep Virginia Beautiful to see if more donated receptacles are available to the city. October 10<sup>th</sup> 9 am – 3 pm, Bellman road is hosting a hazard waste collection at the City Shop.

**\* Green Committee Update:** Upcoming planting of 212 trees and 300 shrubs at the Fredericksburg Nationals stadium site. Rappahannock Electrical Coop assisted with a \$5,000 grant. Tree Fredericksburg has been waiting for a signature of the MOU with the city and a budget. A meeting will be held this week with Mr. Barody, Tree Fredericksburg, Doug Fawcett and Diane Beyer in hopes of resolving the situation. Chairman Courtnage stated that the Clean and Green Commission supports the essential role of Tree Fredericksburg in the city and a continuation of the partnership.

1. **\* Sustainability Committee Update:** Periodic interfaces with City Council along with the public are recommended to keep us all on track and informed on progress toward meeting the renewable energy resolution goals. Ms. Devine said the City Council's retreat in December is the time when plans are made for the next several years.

Chairman Courtnage emphasized the need for the city to have a plan with specific steps in order to meet the goals of the renewable energy resolution and stated there was a joint effort, led by Fossil Free Fredericksburg, to provide four main recommended priorities to Council. Commissioner Solley proposed that the Commission vote to affirm approval of those four priorities which are: 1) Designate an environmental sustainability manager, 2) Conduct a greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory for municipal operations; 3) Develop an implementation plan for the city to achieve the municipal operations renewable energy goal; 4) Actively work with conservation organizations and private landowners to preserve green space, increase the city tree canopy and protect the

Rappahannock River. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the recommended priorities.

Chairman Courtnage asked Mr. Ray Regan to report on the City's energy efficiency efforts. Mr. Regan stated that the energy monitoring system is in place currently; the system alerts a Siemens technician to report when a site is having an issue. Siemens also conducts a monthly energy analysis and data is provided monthly to the City. Mr. Regan would like to share these data points with the Commission and would like to have input on data the group would like to see differently or additionally. Ms. Stebbins inquired about the 20-year audit which Mr. Regan stated occurred in 2015. Mr. Regan provided an overview of data points from that audit. Mr. Courtnage asked about the current status of city's relationship with Siemens. Mr. Regan responded to additional questions from the chairman regarding solar initiatives.

The Chairman reported an update on C-PACE's continued involvement with the Fredericksburg Nationals regarding environment sustainability at the baseball stadium. Stadium officials are awaiting a proposal from Sun Tribe Solar which seems to be a good match for their needs.

The Chairman asked if there was other business.

Councilor Devine reminded the commission that Downtown Greens would take pumpkins from residents for composting.

The Chairman mentioned that a media release was disseminated to announce the partnership with the Fredericksburg Police Department and Virginia Clean Cities to move forward to invest in alternatively fueled vehicles which was linked to the City Renewable Energy Resolution.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.