

Flagstaff Sustainability Commission
Minutes

CITY OF FLAGSTAFF
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

HYBRID MEETING
CITY HALL, STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM
AND MICROSOFT TEAMS

THURSDAY

June 22, 2023

4:30 – 6:30 PM

Vision: The City of Flagstaff is a culture and community that thrives in response to the Climate Crisis.

Mission: To advise Sustainability Division Staff on matters related to climate and sustainability, support community projects through Neighborhood Sustainability Grants, and provide feedback to the City Council on sustainability issues.

1. Call to Order

Chair White called the meeting of the Sustainability Commission held June 22nd, 2023, to order at 4:35 pm.

2. Roll Call

NOTE: One or more Commission Members may be in attendance telephonically or by other technological means. Quorum is four commissioners.

Chair Kevin White

Vice Chair Paul Beier

Commissioner Kristen Konkell

Commissioner Margaret Steiger

Commissioner Molly McCormick

Others Present: Briana Aurilio (Minutes), Natalie Pearson (Staff), Nicole Antonopoulos (Staff), Danae Presler (Staff), Tia Hatton (Staff), Summer White (Staff), Karen Hendricks (Presenter)

3. Land Acknowledgement

The Flagstaff City Council humbly acknowledges the ancestral homelands of this area's Indigenous nations and original stewards. These lands, still inhabited by Native descendants, border mountains sacred to Indigenous peoples. We honor them, their legacies, their traditions, and their continued contributions. We celebrate their past, present, and future generations who will forever know this place as home.

4. **Public Comment**

At this time, any member of the public may address the Commission on any subject within their jurisdiction that is not scheduled before the Commission on that day. Due to Open Meeting Laws, the Commission cannot discuss or act on items presented during this portion of the agenda. To address the Commission on an item that is on the agenda, and you are on Teams, please use the Teams Chat function and simply type in 'public comment' to indicate to the Chair that you would like to comment. The Chair will then recognize you when it is time for public comment, and staff will unmute your microphone if needed.

No public comment.

5. **Approve May Minutes (5 minutes)**

Vice Chair Beier commented about adjusting some wording in May's minutes.

Chair White expanded on a comment from May's minutes and said that he applauds Friends of Flagstaff Future for returning grant funding when it became clear that they would not be able to fulfill their grant.

Moved by Commissioner McCormick, seconded by Commissioner Steiger to approve the May 25th, 2023 minutes.

Vote: 4-0 Unanimously Passed

6. **Business**

A. Sustainability Division: New Staff Introduction and May Division Update (10 minutes)

Natalie Pierson (Sustainable Food Systems VISTA) and Danae Presler (new Climate Analyst)

Requested Action: Informational

Nicole Antonopoulos introduced a new staff member of the Sustainability Office, Danae Presler. Ms. Presler greeted the Commission and gave a brief background on herself.

Natalie Pierson gave updates on the Stream Stewards program, annual watershed cleanup, and community gardens.

Summer White commented on the raised garden beds used for the community gardens.

B. City of Flagstaff Recycling Update (10 minutes)

Summer White (Waste Reduction & Food Systems Coordinator) Requested Action: Informational

Summer White gave a presentation on the recycling update for Flagstaff.

Ms. Antonopoulos described the background of the recycling situation in Flagstaff.

Ms. Antonopoulos described the importance of proper recycling and recycling education.

Chair White asked what service the Recycle by City website offers. Ms. White described the website and the various features it offers. Chair White asked if the site tracks how many people using the site and how it is being used. Ms. White clarified that the Sustainability Office does have that information.

Ms. Antonopoulos expanded on the other features of the Recycle by City website.

Vice Chair Beier discussed an article he read about how most plastic is not get recycled and asked for enlightenment regarding this issue and Phoenix's plastic recycling. Ms. Antonopoulos answered that perfecting recycling is challenging but there is opportunity for improvement.

Ms. Presler discussed an initiative to incentivize corporations to collect their own plastic back.

Chair White proposed that the recycling issue should be discussed further in future meetings.

Commissioner McCormick asked if there would be space to help shape the city's recycling efforts and expressed interest in

doing more. Ms. Antonopoulos said that staff will reach out with more information. Chair White also expressed interest in collaborating.

Presentation slides available at the end of this document.

C. Neighborhood Sustainability Grant – Flagstaff Disc Golf Club (10 minutes)

Representative Karen Hendricks present for questions. *See provided letter.* Requested Action: Discussion and Vote

Karen Hendricks discussed a proposed plan on how to use the remaining funds of the Flagstaff Disc Golf Club's Neighborhood Sustainability Grant (NSG).

Chair White asked for clarification that the proposed plan will be a permanent feature. Ms. Hendricks confirmed that the proposed plan will be permanent.

Moved by Vice Chair Beier, seconded by Commissioner McCormick on the expansion of the scope of Flagstaff Disc Golf Club's Neighborhood Sustainability Grant.

Vote: 4-0 Unanimously Passed

D. Neighborhood Sustainability Grants – Application Update & Scoring Rubric (30 minutes)

Kevin White
Requested Action: Discussion and Vote

Chair White discussed the proposed updates to the Neighborhood Sustainability Grant application and scoring rubric set by the subcommittee.

Vice Chair Beier commented that he thought the new updates are superb and thanks the subcommittee and suggested some minor edits.

Chair White asked if the document will need to be voted on for every non-substantive proofreading. Ms. Antonopoulos answered that minor edits can be done and there will be no need for voting.

Commissioner Steiger commented that some formatting in the document should be adjusted and suggested adding a watermark to the document.

Commissioner McCormick proposed some rephrasing in the document to clarify readers about greenhouse gas emissions.

Ms. Antonopoulos discussed some opportunities and resources that could be offered to applicants to calculate emissions. Ms. Hatton suggested adding a phone number for additional aid.

Vice Chair Beier asked to whom he would send editorial suggestions. Ms. Antonopoulos answered that Ms. Hatton would be doing it.

Moved by Vice Chair Beier, seconded by Commissioner McCormick to approve the update to the Neighborhood Sustainability Grant application and scoring rubric with the proposed modifications.

Vote: 4-0 Unanimously Passed

E. Ordinance Discussion (10-15 minutes) Nicole Antonopoulos
Requested Action: Informational

Ms. Antonopoulos discussed the ordinance from the clerk's office and suggested updating it to better support the sustainability division.

Vice Chair Beier suggested inviting the mayor to think about reducing the number of commissions from fifty to twenty.

Commissioner Steiger commented that she is looking forward to aligning the Commission's mission and purpose with the Sustainability Office.

7. To and From (5 minutes)
A. Commission Appointments

Ms. Antonopoulos shared that City Council formally approved an award of contract to the Engage, Empower, and Elevate (E3) program.

Ms. Hatton shared an update on the recruitment for the Commission.

8. Future Agenda Item Requests – All (5 minutes)

Vice Chair Beier requested more information on taking the recycling program in new directions.

Commissioner McCormick suggested adding more time to discuss important events.

Ms. Antonopoulos commented on the possible discussion about the revegetation of a burn scar.

9. Adjournment

The meeting of the Sustainability Commission on June 22nd, 2023, adjourned at 6:05 pm by Chair White.

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING OF NOTICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing notice was duly posted at Flagstaff City Hall on _____ at _____ a.m./p.m. in accordance with the statement filed by the Disability Awareness Commission with the City Clerk.

Dated this _____ day of _____ 2023

FLAGSTAFF RECYCLES!

Summer White
Waste Reduction & Food
Systems Coordinator
City of Flagstaff



MRF UPDATES

Short-term

- The City has secured a hauling service to transport the City's recyclables to a Materials Recovery Facility in the Phoenix area so that collected materials can be properly recycled.
- Currently seeking more efficient hauling options.
- The public recycling drop-off at the MRF is open Monday - Friday, from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm.

Long-term

- The City has gained control of the facility and is currently in the process of cleaning and evaluating the condition of the property for future plans.



. FLAGSTAFF RECYCLES .

Recycle items loosely in the bin, without a bag.



**METAL
CANS & PANS**
empty & clean



**PAPER &
CARDBOARD**
flatten boxes



**PLASTIC BOTTLES
JUGS & JARS**
empty & clean



NO GLASS, PLASTIC BAGS & WRAP,
AEROSOL CANS, TANGLES, NEEDLES



To learn more about recycling visit: flagstaff.az.gov/recycle or call 928.213.2153

Recycling



Recyclable

- Plastics in the shape of bottles, jugs, and jars
- Paper/ envelopes
- Cardboard
- Aluminum cans
- Steel/ tin cans
- Newspapers
- Clean tin foil
- Pizza boxes with little/ no grease

Not Recyclable

- Take-out containers (plastic, paper, styrofoam)
- Paper cups, plates, or napkins
- Plastic berry containers
- Juice cartons
- Plastic spinach containers
- Plastic bags
- Bubble wrap
- Glass (must request glass service)





Digital Outreach

- ★ [Recycle by City](#)
- ★ [FLG Rethink Waste](#)
- ★ [Social media/ paid ads](#)



Physical Outreach

- ★ [Recycling bin checks](#)
- ★ [Mailers/ door hangers](#)
- ★ [Signage: recycling trucks, buses, and public receptacles](#)





Education

- Willow Bend waste diversion education
- Recycling/ waste diversion consultations: schools, businesses, city facilities
- NAU Capstone Groups
- Tabling



2023 Flagstaff Recycles

- NEW Recycling Education ELC AmeriCorps member
- Social media video series
- New downtown receptacle signs
- Tabling at Downtown Wednesday Markets
- KAFF Radio ads
- Website revamp
- Residential recycling bin checks
- Business consultations & recycling kits



1/12/21



**Summer White
Waste Reduction & Food Systems
Coordinator
City of Flagstaff**

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www.flgrethinkwaste.org
www.recyclebycity.com/flagstaff

