

GGC Monthly Meeting – Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021

Present: Richard Cox (co-chair), Anne Hoyt (co-chair), Jan Regan (city council liaison), Sara Britting, Jennica Simon, Jeanette Nelson, Ellis Bozzolo, Marilla Gonzalez, Joe Gonzalez, Michael Amadori (HWS Sustainability Manager), Jacob Fox, Sara Meyer (Town of Geneva liaison) , Scott DeHollander (Assistant Director of Facilities, Cornell Agri-tech), Larry Campbell

Motion to Accept Minutes: Richard motioned, Larry seconded the motion to accept the minutes from our January meeting, the notes from our with meeting with Shalini Bea (City of Rochester Energy & Sustainability Analyst), and from our meeting Jan. 28, with the Town of Geneva’s Sustainability Committee

Introductions of new members Ellis, Jeanette, Jennica, Marilla, and Joe

Report from the Stormwater Abatement Sub-Committee: Ellis reported that the committee plans to meet with Ian Smith, the Seneca Lake Steward, to discuss the town of Geneva/City of Geneva’s Watershed Management Plan. The committee is survtheying residents, as requested by Town Supervisor Mark Venuti, to find areas where stormwater poses problems that could be addressed through a joint city/town program. Jan suggested the committee contact neighborhood leaders though Ellis said many of the neighborhood groups are defunct.

Report from the De-Icing Sub-Committee: Larry had questions about the video being circulated, featuring Phil Sexton, of WIT Advisors, about a new approach to de-icing roads and sidewalks that reduces the amount of salt required. Larry was advised to ask Sexton to clarify some of the issues.

Report from Community Choice Aggregate Sub-Committee: Richard reported that he spoke to Susan Hughes Smith, the Renewable Energy Transition Team Leader for the Rochester People’s Climate Coalition, whose group, Roctricity, brings Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) to communities in the Finger Lakes. Roctricity has partnered with Joule Community Power to sponsor a CCA in the Town of Geneva. The program comes at no expense to subscribers and guarantees a 10 percent discount in a subscriber’s electricity bill and that the electricity comes from 100% renewable sources. The Town’s arrangement with Roctricity comes up for renewal in July, when it would be advantageous for the city to join the town’s program. Ms. Hughes Smith will be invited to our March meeting to discuss this further.

Report from the Climate Smart Community Grant Sub-Committee: Richard reported that he spoke to Sage Gerling (City Manager) to discuss applying for grants through this program. Sage said this year’s grant applications have not been released as yet, but we should prepare to apply.

Report from Waste Diversion Sub-Committee: Michael reported that he’s pursuing (in collaboration with Jacob and the Town) a mattress collection through what appears to be the only regional recycler of mattresses, a Buffalo firm. The Sub-Committee will be meeting with Robert Putney, the CEO of Impact Earth, to discuss a waste assessment in collaboration with the Town.

Native Plants Sale: Richard suggested the committee sponsor at the Visitor’s Center at the Lakefront Park. He’s spoken to several nurseries, and two – Amanda’s Garden and Jim Norwalk – have agreed to attend. Richard also suggested there be a plant swap at the same time.

Changes to the Waste Haulers’ Agreement: Jan reported that the feedback from the city’s waste haulers has not been positive about a proposed mandatory change in their fee structure so that the fee

for recycling is less than the fee for trash and that city residents be charged on a pick-up only basis rather than on a subscription basis. One of the city's major waste haulers, Casella, has said it will cease operations in the city if the proposed changes are approved.