****

**2016 Advisory Group & Neighborhood Association Annual Reports**

**Advisory Group/Neighborhood Association**

Sustainability Advisory Board

**Group Leadership**

Alex Mihm – Chair

Clare Bean – Vice Chair

Sara Mihm

Cecil Denny

Tamara Gilbert

Glen Friedman

Sara Weilhann

**Meeting Times, Dates & Location**

6pm – 7:30 pm. 3rd Thursday of the month. West Linn City Hall

**2016 Accomplishments**

Reorganized, revised and completed the two year update to the 70 page West Linn Sustainability Strategic Plan. (pending City Council approval) Held many recycling events include a City wide Shred Day and recycling of electronics . Replaced two outgoing board members with two new individuals to the board.

**2016 Challenges**

Because of the magnitude of the revisions and the commitment of our board many of the board members used outside time to finish their sections of the plan. This was also true for the review of the draft documents.

Two members of the board resigned during the middle of the process. One for health reasons and the other was moving to a different state. Filling those vacancies in a timely matter also contributed to slowing down the process. In the end one new member was able to help out but the other new member joined the board after all the final edits were completed.

One other challenge was the resignation of our staff liaison. This led to some confusion about where the SAB was in completion of the Sustainability Strategy Plan and some delay in presenting a resolution of approval to City Council.

**2017 Goals**

To have a successful, wonderful year implementing the following items

from the Sustainability Strategic Plan:

Sustainability Audit

Strategy 1: Establish annual sustainability audits for all City facilities and operations in order to locate possible capital improvements and promote improved efficiency of operational practices.

For example: The sustainability audit should include energy and water use, waste, toxics, purchasing, etc.

Step 1: Establish a baseline and process for continually tracking sustainability metrics.

Community Education: A series of talks based on the Strategic Plan and the Civic Ecology workshops, such as a local Fruit gathering group and a Tool Library

Str. 3 - Step 4: Encourage community sharing opportunities such as a tool library, a kitchen library, Swap and Play, and makerspace.com.

Str. 2 - Step 5: Publicize a community organizing fruit-gathering group to harvest the often-unused edibles growing around West Linn. Distribute food to food pantries, senior centers, and schools.

Green Purchasing Policy

Step 1: Conduct an audit of City purchasing and recommend areas for improvement.

Step 2: Write and adopt a City environmentally preferable purchasing policy.

Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Step 1: Inventory existing vehicle characteristics and replacement schedule.

**Any additional feedback to share with the City Council?**

During the course of this year it would be good to have additional staff time and budget to support our efforts conducting a Sustainability audit for the City. Also as we roll out a public education effort it would be good to have staff time and a small budget to produce outreach materials. An estimated budget for these items is listed:

Sustainability Audit (join STAR\* for support) = $3,000 ( joining free & annual fee)

Public Education (2 -4 events: 500/event) = $2,000 (this is for poster, flyers and local advertising ) Total = $5,000

The advantage of the STAR Community Rating System is that it gives the City a nationally established and recognized rating system, much like LEED. The STAR system will provide the City with a framework for a local Sustainability audit and support for the audit.

\* (STAR stands for: Sustainability Tools for Assessing & Rating communities.)

A more precise budget will be determined once the City Council annual priorities are established.