

Beth L Tashnick

Subject: FW: Council Comment

From: David Hamilton
Sent: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 11:20 PM
To: City Manager Distribution Group
Subject: Council Comment

I would like to submit the following as a Council comment (not as a referral yet) to be discussed at Monday's meeting.

Troy Sustainability Committee:

Purpose:

Troy City Council shall vote to establish the Troy Sustainability Committee.

Local governments surrounding Troy and all over the country are responding to the global climate crisis by establishing environmental and sustainability boards, committees, and commissions. As the largest city in Oakland County, Troy is a community recognized for its many assets including diversity, safety, quality of life, and having one of the lowest tax rates in Oakland County, which the Committee shall protect, strengthen, and support for current and future generations. Lack of strong sustainability efforts may negatively impact residents' health, safety, welfare, children, and property.

The Committee shall help the community improve its resilience in the face of natural disasters and climate change, to protect the personal safety and property of residents, and sustain its city slogan, "the city of tomorrow, today."

The purpose of the Committee is to support the quality of life for all residents and visitors in an equitable manner, protect the city's environment and keep it safe, save the city's money and energy, conserve natural resources, reduce the city's carbon footprint, and other achievable sustainability goals outlined by the Committee.

Definitions.

Sustainability is defined as a comprehensive approach to:

1. protect the environmental, social, and economic needs of the current generations without having to compromise them for future generations, and
2. sustain a viable, healthy, and equitable community.

The definition is created as its own but supported by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. As the Committee grows and evolves, the definition is subject to change.

Creation and Membership.

The Committee shall consist of the following: eight voting members, representing the diversity of Troy, at least seven of whom are residents of the city, and between one and two members who are on City Council.

Members may be selected through an open application process determined by the city and shall be appointed and confirmed by the majority of City Council.

Member titles and positions shall be determined by the Committee and City Council member(s) of the Committee.

Members shall serve two-year terms, are eligible for reappointment, and shall serve until a new member is appointed by City Council and takes office.

To be able to protect, strengthen, and support the city sustainably for current and future generations, the selection process shall prioritize interested candidates (1) from diverse communities within the city, (2) who reside within different areas of the city, and (3) that contribute to a wide range of skills expected from the Committee. Furthermore, the city may take extra steps to meet qualifications including outreach.

The wide range of skills expected from the Committee as a whole may include but are not limited to project management, community engagement, public policy, research and analysis, and knowledge or expertise in a wide range of environmental and sustainability categories (e.g., sustainable development and policy that incorporates diversity, equity, and inclusion, energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, climate change, parks and recreation, etc).

Aside from the wide range of skills expected from the Committee as a whole, each member shall (1) recognize the importance of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in the Committee and how it impacts progress on sustainability, (2) utilize effective listening and communication skills to the best of their ability, and (3) commit to interacting with all members and others using behaviors that are civil, safe, respectful, collaborative, positive, and healthy. These behaviors shall be outlined by the Committee.

City Council may appoint a member from city staff to serve as a liaison and non-voting ex officio member of the Committee. City Council may also appoint members from the following: the city's residents (including youth), local, county, state, and federal governments, nonprofits, local schools and businesses, and other essential groups to serve as non-voting ex officio members of the Committee. Ex officio members shall contribute to the Committee's success and may only vote on issues coming before the Committee.

The Committee may appoint existing boards, committees, and commissions within the city or form sub-committees to perform research or other work on environmental and sustainability categories.

Members may be removed from their appointment by City Council for reasons including but not limited to lack of productivity, neglect of duty, nonfeasance, misfeasance, or malfeasance.

Duties and Proposed Work.

It shall be the duty of the Committee to protect, strengthen, and support the community by advising, assisting, and working on environmental and sustainability projects, which may include policies, initiatives, and plans. The work may be performed for environmental and sustainability categories outlined by the Committee including categories previously mentioned:

Sustainable development and policy that incorporates diversity, equity, and inclusion, energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, climate change, parks and recreation, etc.

To achieve its sustainability goals, the Committee may develop a city-wide coalition that includes but is not limited to Troy residents, businesses, nonprofits, religious organizations, and schools. The committee may also work with local, county, state, and federal governments.

The Committee may advise the city on future grants, incentives, and city government funding through the county, state, and federal levels.

Before the Committee advises, assists, or works on a project, each project shall be proposed to City Council by City Council member(s) of the Committee and are subject to approval by City Council.

Meetings and Records.

The minimum number of meetings required for members to attend per year and the time and date of each meeting shall be determined by the Committee and City Council member(s) of the Committee.

The Committee shall have rules of order, which may be developed as its own or in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, and shall be confirmed by City Council member(s) of the Committee.

The Committee may decide if they want to make any meetings public.

Timelines for the Committee to develop reports and share progress and updates on sustainability goals shall be determined by City Council.

City Council holds authority over decisions made on projects, policies, initiatives, and plans. Therefore, the Committee serves as an advisory body, and is not subject to the requirements of the Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act.

City Council shall determine the format of how the Committee reports its minutes and who they report to.

Expenses and Compensation.

Members of the Committee shall not have the authority to approve expenditures or contracts.

Members of the Committee shall serve with no compensation.

Revisions.

As the Committee evolves, revisions to this document may be filed at any time.

Severability.

If any items in this document shall be held or made invalid by a court decision, statute, or rule, the remainder of this document shall not be affected.

David Hamilton
Troy City Council Member