

Meeting Agenda

Location: Zoom - <https://emory.zoom.us/j/3449302253>

Date: February 28, 2022 Time: 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

I. Call to Order - Melissa Hage

II. Review/Approval Minutes:

- A. January 3, 2022 - Daniel Parson/Melissa Hage
- B. January 31, 2022 - Laura McCanless/Melissa Hage

III. Appointment of Note Taker - Melissa Hage

IV. Open Business:

- A. NEGRC Representative/Melissa Hage Reports -
 - 1. Streets and Trails Plan Final Draft Review (if received) and Discussion
 - 2. Creek Project Corridor GOSP Grant Status
 - a. Sustainability Committee's Role/Next Steps
 - 3. Sustainability Plan Development
 - a. Summary of Conversation with City of Brookhaven Sustainability Resource
- B. Mike McQuaide Report/Requests:
 - 1. Muscogee Nation Contact Status and Discussions
 - 2. Expanding Sustainability Committee Membership - (Residents/Non-Residents)
- C. City of Oxford Water/Energy Audit - Melissa Hage
- D. Laura McCanless Reports:
 - 1. ROW Meadows Status
 - 2. Invasive Species Removal
- E. Farmer's Market Developments and Marketing - Laura McCanless/Daniel Parson
- F. Other Potential Action Items:
 - 1. Oxford Sustainability Committee Summer Internship Program Options
 - 2. Leadership Oxford Program Development
 - 3. Recycling/Waste Management Report from Georgia Tech - Status

V. New Business

VI. Next Meeting Action Items - Melissa Hage

VII. Adjournment

Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes, January 31, 2022

Location: Zoom - <https://emory.zoom.us/j/3449302253>

Time: 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

I. Call to Order - Melissa Hage :

Present were Melissa Hage(chair), Mike McQuaide, Dave Huber, Laura McCanless, Bill Andrew (city manager), Laura Gafnea (Oxford College Director of Community Relations), Mark Beatty (NEGRC)

II. Review/Approval January 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes - Daniel Parson:

McCanless noted she had asked for a small change to minutes. As Parson was absent, revised minutes were not available to review. They will be reviewed and approved at next meeting.

III. Appointment of Note Taker - Melissa Hage: *Laura McCanless*

IV. Open Business –

A. Mark Beatty (NEGRC) Reports:

1. Streets and Trails Plan Update/Status:

*Sustainability Committee has been reviewing the working draft of the Streets and Trails Plan since 1/25. Concerns were expressed about excessive sidewalk paving in very low foot-traffic areas: Along Fletcher St.(one of the city's least traveled streets), Asbury St., and **redundant** paving on Clark St., Moore St., Whatcoat St., George St., and Pierce St. Additionally, existing new sidewalk on the south side of Moore St. will be added. On the trails portion of the plan, McCanless pointed out that DDA had planned on trail access from the downtown area, running down E. Clark and behind Orna Villa through DDA land which will remain natural for this purpose. The bit of paved trail on Soule St., between Wesley St. and Hwy 81 is to be removed.*

*Beatty says the next step will be to finalize the working draft with the input of TPR Bd. and the public, before it goes to City Council. The final plan will include a prioritization of the proposed projects and cost estimates. **NERC** will send final draft in about 1 week.*

2. Dried Indian Creek Corridor GOSP Grant Status:

Someone (perhaps John McBrayer) from NEGRC will attend our Feb. meeting to give this update.

3. Items to be presented/discussed at February 2022 Meeting

B. Laura Gafnea (Oxford College) Reports:

1. Leadership Newton Experience/Insights : *Gafnea described the program in detail, saying that the usual participant is mid-level management/emerging leader. It is an 8-month comprehensive program involving in-depth community understanding and community service. Tuition is \$800 and the course is good to build community relationships. It was felt that the chamber program is a bit too in depth for Sustainability Committee's objective. Perhaps a more appropriate program for us would include a meeting with the mayor to explain Oxford's government, attending meetings with city committees and department heads, touring city and city facilities, all to encourage understanding and develop relationships in the community. **Gafnea** will send the COC program agenda and information to **Hage**.*

2. Potential Oxford Sustainability Committee Summer Internship Program

C. Melissa Hage/Laura McCanless Summary/Discussion of January 4, 2022 Meeting:

1. DICC/GOSP Updates:

Hage reported that the meeting showed that the GOSP preparation is moving forward outside of the Sustainability Committee, a great thing

2. Sustainability Committee's Role/Next Steps .

*To help with GOSP, **Sustainability Committee** should start community work to show on the grant that we are already engaged in The Creek Project improvements, to include:*

Invasive plant removal

Replanting natives

Finish Streets and Trails Plan

Start Sustainability Plan

Place water level sensors in creek

Gather fresh water stream health data (possibly from Oxf. Col. class by Chris Martin)

D. Mike McQuaide Report/Requests:

1. Muscogee Naming Suggestions for DICC Park/Trail –

There has been no further communication from the language department of the College of the Muscogee Nation. However, McQuaide communicated with Beth, a Muscogee Nation member, in Emory admissions dept., who suggested taking charming and indicative photos of the creek to send to the language department of the College of the Muscogee Nation, to help inspire response. McQuaide proposes springtime pictures. It was decided that, going forward, that this committee would refer to DIC Project as the Creek Project.

2. Expanding Sustainability Committee Membership - (Residents/Non-Residents)

3. Sustainability Goals for 2022 - Defined/Approved

E. Other Action Items:

1. Farmers' Market and Marketing Discussion with City Clerk - Laura McCanless

2. Invasive Plant Removal/ROW Meadows - Laura McCanless/Daniel Parson

Seeds have been ordered and will be started in flats at the Oxford Organic Farm. Extra plants will be available to be used in our committee efforts to repopulate the cleared areas along The Creek, to support the GOSP grant.

3. City of Oxford Water/Energy Audit - Melissa Hage

4. Recycling/Waste Management Report from Georgia Tech - Status?

V. New Business

VI. Next Meeting Action Items - Melissa Hage

VII. Adjournment

Oxford Sustainability Committee Meeting Notes

Location: Zoom (<https://emory.zoom.us/j/3449302253>)

Date: January 6, 2022

Time: 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

- I. Call to Order - Melissa Hage at 4pm via zoom
Attendance: Melissa Hage, Dave Huber, Laura McCanless, Mike McQuaide (until approx. 4:15pm), Daniel Parson, and Bill Andrew (city manager)

- II. Review, Approval of Past Meeting Minutes - Committee-at-Large
 - a. July, August, September, and December 2021 minutes
Earlier minutes had not been approved-any changes? No changes. Motion to approve minutes presented via email documents from July, August, September, and December 2021.
Motion passed-unanimous

- III. Appointment of Note Taker for Meeting - Melissa Hage
Daniel Parson to take notes

- IV. Open Business:
 - a. Dried Indian Creek Corridor updates?
Hage to meet with Mark Beatty, McAnless, Mayor Eady, Jon Calabria, and Andrew tomorrow at 10am via zoom
McQuaide update to work on name alternative has yet to yield result. Visit to Okmulgee mounds did not produce any leads
Survey data came out in power bills that were received today-thanks to Huber and Hage for their work on this particularly
It is time for the first ROW meadow to be mowed using the sickle bar. Parson will operate mower soon coordinating with McCanless. Thanks to McCanless leading and students supporting the plastic-ing of the new one at Soule Street.

- V. New Business:
 - a. Discussion and refocusing of committee vision/mission/goals/objectives
Refer to Oxford Committee Statements sent by Huber in December for ideas.
Farmers' Market discussion-supervised by the city clerk and nobody at the moment is working directly with the market from the city side
Invasive plant removal-looking for a contractor to get some of this done: McCanless is working with two-one of whom is responsive

Water and energy issues-would it be possible to get a water use/energy use assessment to focus on these areas?

Water-McCanless reports water system upgrade set to begin with, in part, grant funding.

City collects water runoff for landscaping to decrease water consumption at city hall and new park. Newsletter or information would be a good place to report this and other things that have been done in the city to encourage citizens to think about doing the same.

Leadership or ambassadorship program: Discussion of possibilities related to this. Use of internship programs at Oxford for city/sustainability committee during the semester or summer was discussed. During the school year faculty can provide academic-side support and credit while during the summer there is an opportunity for a student to spend more time but this would need to be funded at approx. \$6K/year/student including summer housing.

Newton County leadership program-could the city send someone to this program to come back and become a city leader?

Encourage Development committee at city to incentivize LEED-type standards for building projects. If we have higher standards then when people do come to develop in Oxford, it will have an overall positive impact on sustainability in our community.

Focus on what the city is doing-McCanless reports some progress with reducing impacts, ex. Reduce printing waste, fewer disposables for events.

Recycling focus-rather than discuss it now we will await the GA Tech students report to feed our discussion on this topic

- b. Determine committee's goals (short and long term) for the year

GOSP grant to be completed by October

City Sustainability Plan

Complete Streets and Trails Plan

Increase community engagement: Communication, Leadership recruiting

VI. Next Meeting Action Items - Melissa Hage

McCanless to discuss with City Clerk market etc.

Parson/McCanless to mow meadow

Hage to reach out to Laura Gafnea about leadership program

Meeting with Mayor, Calabria, et al tomorrow

Huber to draft agenda January 17-send items prior incl. guests

January 31, 4-5:30pm via Zoom

VII. Adjournment

5:21pm