

Dale Feik, City Sustainability Chair, Work Plan presentation to Council Monday Feb 12, 2018

Footprint, A funny thing happened on the way to extinction. Footprint, A Funny thing happened on the way to extinction. I gave you Councilor Johnston and Mayor Truax the book Footprint in 2011. Yesterday I emailed you and the rest of your fellow Councilors the report titled: 'Is There a Ticking Time Bomb Under the Artic'. Using sound scientific evidence the answer is unequivocally "Yes".

Why "Yes"?

Because the rock solid Permafrost under 1/3rd of the northern hemisphere is melting at an alarming rate. In that permafrost is basically anything that's died in the Arctic over the past one hundred thousand years. The permafrost is packed with dead plants and dead animals. All of that life is made of carbon. There's more carbon trapped in that permafrost than all the carbon humans have spewed into the atmosphere. Carbon was released first with steam engines, then with cars, planes, coal plants -- everything we've done since the Industrial Revolution.

The permafrost contains twice as much carbon as is currently in the Earth's atmosphere, 1,600 billion metric tons. Please read the email I sent you to see how ancient bacteria is causing material that has been frozen a very long time, to turn the carbon into Carbon Dioxide and Methane. That scientific evidence validates the title of the book, Footprint, A funny thing happened on the way to extinction.

Most people don't change their behavior because of being frightened by things that they don't know about or know about only casually. I went door to door in my neighborhood to recruit people to come to our last knowledge pub – how to prepare for, act during, and after a major natural disaster. At least 20 people said that they would attend the Knowledge pub. All acknowledged the problem of being unprepared and expressed sincere concern, but only one couple showed up. Fortunately, other Sustainability Commission members were more successful than I was in recruitment – we had over 70 people in attendance. Thank you councilor Thompson for representing the Council.

Our next Knowledge pub is Wednesday, April 18. Kristen Ohlson is our speaker. She wrote the book "The Soil Will Save Us: How Scientists, Farmers, and Foodies are Healing the Soil to Save The Planet" Robin Lindsley, the leader of the Food Section of our Work Plan, recruited Ohlson to speak. Please put the evening of April 18<sup>th</sup> on your calendars. Robin is one of the current members that helped persuade you as Councilors to make the ad-hoc Sustainability Committee into a Sustainability Commission.

At our first Knowledge Pub, Deke Gundersen told the audience what he had to tell his college-age daughter about the reality of extinction. (I actually talked about what I tell my daughter about the major global environmental problems (e.g. Climate change, species extinction, pollution, energy, food, water,

population growth). But Deke, as a professor of Environmental Science at Pacific University, told us that there is still hope if we all work hard to reduce our Carbon footprint. Robin and Deke deserve a big shout out for their untiring commitment to future generations.

We as members of the Sustainability Commission are working hard to fulfill our mission statement, which is:

“The people of Forest Grove are committed to improving the quality of life in our community by providing stewardship of our economic, social, environmental and cultural resources in a manner that is equitable for all present and future generations.” With your direction and support we will do the actions listed in the Work Plan as well as being responsible to pursue other efforts related to sustainability beyond the Work Plan.

Brandi Walstead, staff support person to the Commission, also deserves a shout out. She put together the PowerPoint presentation that Brian Schimmel, former chair, will use to highlight the Work Plan and then ask for your feedback.