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Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 11:25 PM

To: peter.weldon@winterparkperspective.org

Subject: Thoughts on Sustainability Plan | Michael Cameron Candidate for WP Mayor

Hey Pete,

Hope all is well. I've taken the time to thoroughly review the 59-page sustainability plan for Winter Park, and while I commend our community's initiative towards sustainability, I share your concerns regarding the financial implications of transitioning to renewable energy, particularly the prospect of increasing electric rates.

As someone who has personally invested in solar energy for my home, I deeply value the benefits of renewable energy. However, I strongly believe that we can pursue a path to sustainability without imposing undue financial burdens on our residents. Owning our utility provider offers us a unique opportunity to control our destiny, and I am convinced that there are more cost-effective ways to achieve our environmental goals.

I've attached a draft revision that helps clarify some concerns I had, but I have also highlighted several strategies to bridge the gaps identified in the original plan. These include:

- **Leveraging Federal and State Incentives:** By taking full advantage of available grants and subsidies for renewable energy projects, we can offset a significant portion of the upfront costs, reducing the financial impact on our community.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** Collaborating with businesses and non-profits in the energy sector can attract investment and expertise, spreading out the costs and risks associated with renewable energy projects.
- **Community Solar Projects:** Instead of individual high-cost investments, community solar allows residents to benefit from renewable energy at a competitive price, making it accessible to more people without the need for everyone to install solar panels on their property.
- **Incremental Implementation:** Gradually transitioning to renewable energy sources over a longer period allows us to spread out the costs, take advantage of technological advancements, and adjust our strategy based on real-world results.
- **Energy Efficiency Programs:** Investing in energy efficiency not only reduces overall consumption but also lowers the total amount of renewable energy required, making the goal more attainable and affordable.

I believe we can achieve our sustainability objectives in a way that is financially responsible and beneficial to all Winter Park residents, and I look forward to your feedback.

Warm regards,
Michael Cameron of Mayor