

**AGENDA
CITY OF MONONA
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
City Hall Administrator's Office
Tuesday, March 28, 2023
6:30 PM
RESCHEDULED DATE**

Due to the current state of emergency because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting will be conducted as a hybrid meeting via electronic videoconferencing/teleconferencing and in-person. As such, it is likely that some or all members of, and a possible quorum, may be in attendance via electronic means and not physically present. In accordance with Wisconsin law, the meeting will remain open to the public. The public may still attend in person at the location stated in this agenda. However, due to the need to maintain social distancing in accordance with Emergency Order #7 of Public Health Madison & Dane County dated July 1, 2020 and the limited physical space available, the public is encouraged and requested to also attend via electronic means. Directions to do so are listed at the bottom of this agenda. Upon reasonable notice, the needs of disabled individuals will be accommodated through auxiliary aids or services. For additional information or to request this service, contact the City clerk at 608-222-2525.

- 1) Call to Order – **6:30 PM**
- 2) Roll Call
- 3) Approval of Minutes from the **February 9, 2023** Sustainability Committee Meeting
- 4) Appearances
- 5) Unfinished Business
 - A. Upcoming Projects
 - i) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Earth Day E-cycling Event
 - ii) No Mow May and Pollinator Habitat
- 6) New Business
- 7) Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Discussion Items – Projects, Programs, Policies, or Budget Considerations for Council Advisement
- 8) Important Updates from Committee Members or Items to Consider for Future Agendas
- 9) Adjournment

Next Meetings: Thursday April 13, 2023 and Thursday May 11, 2023

Please notify Thor Jeppson at tjeppson@ci.monona.wi.us if you cannot make it.

DIRECTIONS TO ATTEND MEETING ELECTRONICALLY

You may attend via videoconference by downloading the free Zoom program to your computer at <https://zoom.us/download>. At the date and time of the meeting log on through the Zoom program and use the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86347241960> or enter Meeting ID: 863 4724 1960.

You may attend via telephone conference by calling the following phone number:

PHONE NUMBER: 1-312-626-6799 / MEETING ID: 863 4724 1960, FOLLOWED BY #

Please Mute Your Phone When Not Speaking To Ensure Best Possible Audio Quality.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE BY ZOOM

Persons interested in publicly appearing before the Sustainability Committee via computer or phone on the Zoom application are asked to submit an [Appearance Before a City Committee form](#) so that we can accommodate all online and phone requests to speak. Please submit your form as soon as possible. Requests will be accepted before and during the meeting until the Appearances section is closed. Requests submitted after the Appearances section is closed will not be able to speak. Link to form: <https://www.mymonona.com/FormCenter/Committee-Application-11/Appearance-Before-a-Committee-Citizen-Co-82>

WRITTEN COMMENTS

You can send written comments on agenda items by emailing tjeppson@ci.monona.wi.us

NOTE: Upon reasonable notice, the City of Monona will accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through auxiliary aids or services. For additional information or to request this service, contact the City Clerk at (608) 222-2525 (not a TDD telephone number) Fax: (608) 222-9225 or through the City Police Department TDD telephone number 441-0399. The public is notified that any final action taken at a previous meeting may be reconsidered pursuant to the City of Monona ordinances. A suspension of the rules may allow for final action to be taken on an item of New Business. It is possible that members of and a possible quorum of members of other governmental bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above stated meeting to gather information or speak about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibility. Any governmental body at the above stated meeting will take no action other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice. Agenda Posted 3/22/2023 on the City Hall Library, and Community Center bulletin boards and on the City of Monona's website mymonona.com.

CITY OF MONONA
Sustainability Committee
Thursday, February 9, 2023
Meeting Minutes – DRAFT

1. Call to Order

6:35 PM – Meeting called to order by Alder Teresa Radermacher.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Alder Teresa Radermacher, Kristin Gunther, Sue Vogt, Sarah Smith, and Ashley Gries

Absent: Alder Patrick DePula, Dan Costello, and Ken Walz

Others Present: Assistant Planner Thor Jeppson

3. Approval of Minutes from the December 8, 2022 Sustainability Committee Meeting

A motion by Ms. Gries, seconded by Ms. Vogt, for approval of the minutes of December 8, 2022 carried with one correction.

4. Appearances

None

5. Unfinished Business

None

6. New Business

a. Smart Salting Practices project update

Kristin reported on the project team’s actions since the Committee met in December.

Ashley developed graphics for bookmarks, flyers, and window clings. 2,000 bookmarks were printed and distributed at municipal locations, MGSD schools, and business. Sal’s is placing them on pizza boxes. 50 window clings were printed and distributed to businesses that have committed to being salt wise. Flyers with salt wise talking points were also distributed.

The project team also recorded PSAs on WVMO and included content in the January and February MyMonona newsletters. Staff created a salt awareness webpage on the City website and posted on social media during Salt Awareness Week.

Alder Radermacher asked the group for how the project can be improved for next year. Ashley suggested businesses who are interested in salt reduction have an opportunity to share their story. She also said that a distribution list could be created and flyers could be more widely distributed.

Sue suggested other community groups beyond businesses be engaged. Alder Radermacher said that the relationship with MG21 School could be grown, and Kristin added that the Committee encourage school maintenance staff to get Salt Wise certified.

Alder Radermacher added the possibility of changing the City ordinance to allow for enforcement of salt use, with the intent to be informational rather than punitive.

Kristin closed the agenda item by saying that a summary of lessons learned would be shared with the group.

b. Natural Lawn Permits

Alder Radermacher introduced the agenda item. The City has received questions about keeping longer grass beyond No Mow May and the Committee previously discussed looking in to the Natural Lawn ordinance. Assistant Planner Jeppson shared that the Natural Lawn Permit has been available for at least 10 years, but only one has ever been submitted. It is not available on the City website and not publicized.

The Commission discussed potential changes to the ordinance to remove barriers and better define natural lawns. Assistant Planner Jeppson suggested that species native to Wisconsin be required. Ashley said that the University of Wisconsin has several resources related to native plantings and suggested a few books, such as *The Vegetation of Wisconsin* by John Curtis.

Ashley felt the ordinance should clarify that a permit is needed for a lawn, not for new landscaping or plantings, and that it should be defined by size. Sarah added that it should be based on the percentage of the lawn used as a natural lawn. She also felt that the 10 ft. setback from property lines were too restrictive. Assistant Planner Jeppson pointed out that the ordinance requires neighbors within 300 ft. be notified. The Planning Department only notifies neighbors within 200 ft. of proposed developments. A majority of neighbors can veto a permit, which is not included in other community's ordinances.

The Committee discussed how the ordinance relates to No Mow May and if it would allow a property owner to continue with No Mow May throughout the year if the received a permit. The Committee generally felt that "natural" was open to interpretation. Kristin felt that the ordinance should include a purpose statement and focus on increasing beneficial habitat for pollinators. The Committee generally felt that the purpose of natural lawns and of No Mow May were separate, where No Mow May intends to allow for longer grass during a critical window for pollinators, but beyond May it could lead to nuisance lawns. Natural lawns are intended to be ideal habitat year round. The Commission agreed that "natural" needed to be further defined.

Assistant Planner Jeppson added that Madison's natural lawn ordinance has a list of approved species, requires the lawn to be mowed at least once per year, requires a permit if the natural lawn is greater than a certain percentage of the overall lawn, and has a 5 ft. setback from property lines.

Alder Radermacher suggested she and staff work to create a draft ordinance that the Committee can review at a future meeting, and then refer it to City Council.

c. Upcoming Projects

Alder Radermacher shared the outreach calendar. She suggested it be revised to better reflect the Committee's capacity. She proposed that the Community festivals, Memorial Day Parade, and National Night Out events be removed, and instead be included as possible opportunities under the scope of other projects like Adopt-a-stormdrain. Sarah felt that the tabling opportunities at the Community festivals have been successful in previous years, especially for distributing information and advertising the sustainability dashboard. The Committee agreed to remove the Parade and National Night Out from the calendar, but keep the Community festivals.

Alder Radermacher suggested the Forestry Fund fundraiser be removed.

i. Earth Day E-cycling Event

Alder Radermacher asked if the contractor would publicize the event by sending mailers like the previous year. Assistant Planner Jeppson shared that the City's project manager at Resource Solutions left and it has been difficult to get in touch with the company since. He will reach out to ask about mailers and check in about the Traffic Flow Safety Plan.

ii. No Mow May

Alder Radermacher stated that Sarah is working on graphics for promotional materials and that she will check with Ken if he has availability to help lead the project. She felt that the purpose of the 2023 No Mow May project is raise awareness of the importance of pollinators and to increase participation in No Mow May.

For next steps, Alder Radermacher suggested the Committee decide how much to charge for yard signs, look into financial sponsors, publicize the event through community channels, and coordinate with MGSD, Public Works, and the Parks Department. She asked if other green yard care strategies, like rain gardens, should be promoted. The Committee was generally open to the idea.

Ashely suggested coordinating with schools for public art projects and Kristin suggested a window painting campaign.

Kristin asked if a speaker could be invited to the library. Sue is part of the EcoAction Tuesdays team, which is meeting soon to discuss upcoming events. She will ask if there is room on the schedule for a pollinator discussion.

iii. Adopt-a-Stormdrain and Leaf Management

Alder Radermacher stated that Dan will lead this project and Sue may have availability to help. She proposed similar outreach strategies used for other projects. She also felt that the team should work with Brad Bruun to understand how many stormdrains have been adopted, and reach out to those adopters with resources.

iv. Other

Alder Radermacher and Assistant Planner Jeppson met with Brad Bruun to discuss Sustainability Plan implementation. Brad shared that a lot of goals were accomplished shortly after it was published. He felt that city staff needs directives from City leadership to focus on sustainability. They will meet with the Mayor as a next step. They will also work with Brad to put together a rough plan for meeting the 100% renewable energy goal.

7. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Discussion Items – Projects, Programs, Policies, or Budget Considerations for Council Advisement

Alder Radermacher shared that the newly formed Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Implementation Committee had their first meeting. The Committee is working to identify implementation priorities from the DEI report.

8. Important Updates from Committee Members or Items to Consider for Future Agendas

None.

9. Actionable Items

None.

10. Adjournment

A motion by Ms. Vogt, seconded by Ms. Gunther, to adjourn carried (8:10 PM).

Submitted by,

Thor Jeppson, Assistant Planner

Earth Day E-Cycling Event							
Objective(s):	To collect as many traditionally non-recyclable items from Monona residents as possible						
Why this project:	Electronics, appliances, and styrofoam require specialized recycling services. This project will help reduce the amount of these items that end up in landfills						
MSP Reference:							
Project Lead(s):	Thor						
Date Last Updated	Task Description	Due Date (sort order)	Assigned	Status	Notes	Parking Lot	
3/10/2023	MyMonona e-Newsletter for March	3/10/2023	Thor	Done	Submission included in March newsletter		
3/13/2023	Mailers sent to each house	3/15/2023	Thor	Done	Resource Solutions will send 1,000 mailers, built into the \$350 service fee		
3/17/2023	Styrofoam recycling	3/24/2023	Thor	Done	Reynolds recycling confirmed and will provide styrofoam and cardboard recycling for free		
3/22/2023	PSAs	4/3/2023	Teresa	In progress	Grab content from Sustainable Monona page; Thor has copies of previous PSAs		
3/22/2023	Press Release	4/3/2023	Teresa	In progress	Grab content from Sustainable Monona page		
3/22/2023	Social Media	4/3/2023	Thor	Not started	1-2 posts each week on Facebook		
3/22/2023	Day of volunteers	4/3/2023	Thor and Teresa	Not started	Thor to invite the committee, Teresa will reach out to citizens who have applied to the committee		
3/21/2023	Web page	4/10/2023	Thor	Done	Webpage for event updated with styrofoam recycling info. See mymonona.com/recycling		
3/21/2023	Drone	4/10/2023	Teresa	In progress	Will Nimmow will coordinate with students that own the drone		
3/20/2023	Have NMM yard signs at the event	4/14/2023	Thor	In progress	Insty Prints is printing 50 additional signs, will be ready by 3/30/23. Signs are \$12.50 per unit		
3/22/2023	Create strategy for collecting payment/donations for yard signs	4/14/2023	Thor	Not started	Reach consensus as Committee for suggested donation price		

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-zLVsHWiv2DdpRCNThXNNP00qkAKsHoRJoYb15OTcU/edit#gid=1445476900>

No Mow May - Outreach & Education							
Project Objectives: (1) Raise resident's awareness about the importance of protecting pollinators, and the positive impact NMM has on polinator habitat (2) increase NMM participation. TR; 3/6/23; Do we include "Green Lawn Care" in this campaign, or only NMM?							
Why this project: Pollinators are critical for our survival, but their populations are in danger. By delaying lawn mowing each spring we can provide needed habitat during a critical time in their lifecycle.							
Reference to Monona Sustainability Plan (MSP):							
Project Lead(s):							
Date Last Updated	Task Description	Focus Area	Due Date (sort order)	Assigned	Status	Notes	Parking Lot
	Check yard sign inventory	residential		Thor	Done	Nine left	
	Determine how much we will charge for yard signs	both			Done	3/10; TR; Let's ask for \$10/per sign. 1/6; TR; These are rather expensive, between \$15-18 each. This single expense could eat up our entire \$2K budget for 2023.	
	Research financial sponsors, what that might look like, and other ways to re-coup costs of yard signs.	both	N/A	N/A	Will not do	1/6; TR; Parks? DPW?	
	Write 2-4 PSAs	Residential		Teresa		3/9/23; TR; Dave Brunner from Community Media can assist.	
	Record PSAs on VMO			Thor - ask Members		Send an email	
	Social media			Thor		3/9/23; TR; How many posts should we have?	
	Submit article to the MyMonona e-newsletter			Teresa		3/9/23; TR; Bill Graf from Community Media can write a press release, which we can also send to newspapers, not just the e-newsletter	
	Do we need Bookmarks or small flyers?					TR; maybe some text can be lifted from Xerces??	
3/9/2023	Coordinate with Parks - is it possible to set aside some public land?			Teresa	Done	3/9/23; TR; sent an email to Parks director Jake Anderson. 1/6/23; TR; Success here depends entirely on EARLY conversations, months in advance.	
3/9/2023	Coordinate w DPW - is it possible to set aside some public land?			Teresa	Done	3/9/23; TR; sent an email to DPW director Dan Stephany. 1/6/23; TR; Success here depends entirely on EARLY conversations, months in advance.	
	Coordinate w school district			Teresa		1/6/23; TR; in 2022 the district put up signs at the district offices on Monona and Dean	
	Work w schools to do public artwork (similar to adopting a storm drain)			Teresa - reach out to Ashley		Ashley - maybe kids have a sheet of plywood they can decorate about pollinators. Kristin - MG21 stewardship with public art installation at a park.	
	Window painting contest for kids			Teresa - reach out to Ashley		collaborate with the chamber	
	Work with MG21 to build a rain garden or two around town			Teresa - Reach out to Kristin		MG21 - Stewardship is one of their pillars. Rain gardens	
3/9/2023	Re-write current "natural lawn" ordinance			Teresa	Started	3/9/23; TR; We'll review updated language at tonight's meeting. I'm working to get feedback from a Master Gardener	
	Eco Action Tuesdays - Hold an event that focuses on Pollinators and No Mow May			Teresa	Started	TR; 3/9; I'll reach out to the library. The Appleton PollenAblers	

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-zLVsHWIv2DdpRCNthXNNP0O0qkAKsHoRJoYb15OTcU/edit#gid=2088773751>