

CITY OF MONONA
Sustainability Committee
Thursday, January 13, 2022
Meeting Minutes – FINAL

1. Call to Order

6:30 PM – Meeting called to order by Alder Moore

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Alder Nancy Moore, Alder Molly Grupe, Sarah Smith, Sue Vogt, Teresa Radermacher, Ken Walz, Chris Conrad

Absent: Dan Costello

Staff Present: Elisa Guerrero

3. Approval of Minutes from the December 9, 2021 Sustainability Committee Meetings

Motion to approve: First – Sue, second – Chris. Passed with no corrections.

4. Appearances

None

5. Unfinished Business

A. 2022 Energy Roadmap Planning

Nancy suggested that a helpful next step for the energy roadmap would be to better understand the return-on-investment and savings each project would generate, in addition to how close each one would get Monona to its 100% Clean Energy goal.

The Committee discussed getting a more detailed picture of what clean energy projects have already been undertaken and how far they have moved the City towards established clean energy goals. The City's existing sustainability-related plans, like the 25x25 Energy Independent Communities Plan from 2010, have lists of suggested projects. Elisa agreed to review the suggested projects and see which have already been implemented.

Ken mentioned that it seems like the City has a list of future energy-related projects already lined up that could help reach those goals. If those projects are already in the works, he suggested the Sustainability Committee could focus on better communication with residents about what successes the City has already had.

6. New Business

A. Staff Update – Forestry Fund Donations

Elisa shared the updates that had been made to the City's Forestry Fund Page. Instructions for donating to the fund were clarified and placed at the top of the page. The Committee also discussed whether it was possible to accept online donations for the fund through the City's website. Elisa reported that it likely wouldn't be possible, but would double check.

Nancy said that the best course of action for promoting the forestry fund and tree planting would be to meet with staff from the Public Works and Parks departments to get their insight and expertise. Getting ideas from them, that would fit within their existing tree planting processes, would be a better way to approach the committee's tree planting goals. Ken and Teresa agreed to meet with staff from both departments to hear their ideas.

B. City Newsletter Content Brainstorming

The Committee discussed the idea of having more consistent articles about sustainability in the City newsletter, with accompanying content on the website and social media. Chris shared the article he wrote about smart thermostats, and Sarah, Sue and Ken all agreed to write articles in the future. Molly

agreed to record PSAs for WVMO to accompany the newsletter articles. Molly emphasized the importance of planning ahead for this and other kinds of outreach, and Sarah and Teresa agreed to help put together a communications/outreach plan for the Committee.

C. 2022 Earth Week Event Planning

i. E-cycling event

The Committee agreed to host another e-cycling event on Saturday, April 23, 2022, by contracting with Resource Solutions and Reynolds Urethane Recycling. The Committee also discussed options for collecting other items at the event, like household hazardous waste, plastic bags and paper shredding. Committee members and staff agreed to research other collection options, like Clean Sweep. An article for the newsletter about recycling resources in Monona would be drafted to be sent out around the same time.

ii. Other events

Molly suggested that the Committee plan well in advance for any community event outreach they wanted to do, to avoid scheduling and volunteer issues that came up during summer/fall 2021. Possible events to table at included the Community Festival, the Fall Festival and the summer concert series. The Committee discussed what outreach information and resources were available to use, and what kinds of activities would engage more people. Having activities like special guests, fun an educational activities or working with local partners like MGE, B-cycle and Focus on Energy might make the Committee's table draw in more people at events. Molly agreed to make a list of the possible events to be at for the year.

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

Molly reminded the Committee that registration was open for the Nehemiah Black History for a New day course was open for enrollment and encouraged all who could to take the course.

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

Future agenda items would include discussion of a communications/outreach calendar, and continued discussion of the energy roadmap.

9. Actionable Items

- Sue and Ken will write articles for the newsletter in February and March, respectively.
- Molly will record WVMO PSA's for the newsletter articles.
- Nancy, Sarah and Teresa will develop a communications/outreach plan.
- Ken, Teresa and Elisa will meet with Public Works and Parks staff to discuss Forestry Fund programming ideas.
- Molly will get examples of energy road maps from neighboring municipalities.
- Elisa will contract with Resource Solution and Reynolds Urethane Recycling for an e-cycling event on 4/23/22, and will research Clean Sweep event options.
- Elisa will review the 25x25 plan and 2015 Sustainability Plan to see which recommended projects have already been accomplished.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: First – Molly, second – Chris. Passed at 8:18pm.