

CITY OF MONONA
Sustainability Committee
Wednesday, February 16, 2022
Meeting Minutes – FINAL

1. Call to Order

6:35 PM – Meeting called to order by Alder Nancy Moore

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Alder Nancy Moore, Sarah Smith, Dan Costello, Teresa Radermacher, Ken Walz, Chris Conrad

Absent: Alder Molly Grupe, Sue Vogt

Staff Present: Elisa Guerrero, Sustainability Coordinator

3. Approval of Minutes from the November 11, 2021 Sustainability Committee Meetings

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

4. Appearances

None

5. Unfinished Business

A. 2022 Energy Roadmap Planning

Elisa spoke about elements of the McFarland Sustainability plan that might be relevant to an energy roadmap, like a table of clean energy projects listing the different city committees involved in their approval and execution. She also mentioned that there were some Department of Energy grants that might be relevant and that more funding opportunities would likely open up as federal infrastructure money became available.

The Committee discussed ways to better communicate about the energy efficiency projects that the City has already completed, through the annual dashboards, the energy roadmap and the information presented on the website. Teresa suggested developing some talking points that committee members could use when talking to residents, which could also be reflected on the website. It would be important to show completed projects, their return on investment periods and the energy savings they generated. Teresa, Dan, Chris and Elisa agreed to work on taking ideas from the McFarland sustainability plan and revising the Sustainable Monona webpage to better communicate sustainability goals and impact.

B. 2022 Communications/Outreach Plan

Elisa reported that an article about the new smart meters and leak alerts went out in the February newsletter and agreed to post on the Facebook page about it. The March newsletter would include an article about the upcoming Earth Day e-cycling event. Elisa shared event details, including that household hazardous waste collection wouldn't be possible and that she was looking into options for paper shredding. Volunteers could be confirmed at the March meeting.

Nancy said there would likely be a Memorial Day parade in 2022 and that the Committee should consider doing a brigade of electric and hand push lawn mowers with information about pollinators in the parade. The Committee was supportive of the idea.

6. New Business

None

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

Nancy reported that the Ad Hoc DEI committee had identified four work group areas to focus on, and that City Council members were now all taking the Nehemiah Black History for a New Day course.

Teresa suggested that the Committee add a recognition of the connection between sustainability and DEI issues on the website.

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

Nancy and Elisa shared that the City is looking into the Wisconsin SaltWise Municipal Champions program to recognize the City's existing smart salting practices, and to see what other best practices the City could implement.

Nancy shared the Plan Commission had recently discussed how rainwater runoff that filtered through lawns before entering the lakes was found to be higher in phosphorus than water that reached the lakes directly from the storm water system, which was a surprising finding.

Nancy summarized some of the new housing developments being considered at Plan Commission that were considering affordable housing units, and sustainable infrastructure like geothermal heating, charging for EVs, rooftop solar, and green roofs.

Teresa shared that the high school would have a ribbon cutting and open house event for the new solar array in May and all were invited to attend. The solar panels would be installed in the next couple months. She also shared that she and Ken would be meeting with Parks staff to discuss tree planting ideas soon.

Ken mentioned that the State legislature was considering a bill that would prohibit electric vehicle charging stations that were not powered by electricity generated by electric utilities. The bill would essentially prohibit any independently owned EV charging stations powered by solar or other renewable sources.

9. Actionable Items

None

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: First – Chris, second – Dan. Passed at 7:30pm.