

CITY OF MONONA
Sustainability Committee
Thursday, April 14, 2022
Meeting Minutes – FINAL

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

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

Absent: Chris Conrad

Staff Present: Elisa Guerrero, Sustainability Coordinator

3. Approval of Minutes from the March 10, 2022 Sustainability Committee Meeting

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

4. Appearances

None

5. Unfinished Business

a. 2022 Earth Week Event

Final details for the 2022 Earth Week event were discussed such as who could volunteer and what time for volunteers should arrive. Molly was organizing to possibly pick up items for the event from seniors in the community who might not be physically able to come to the event. A final list of seniors who wanted their items picked up would be finalized before the event. Elisa agreed to create a procedure for collecting recycling fees from those households.

The event had been promoted in the City newsletter, in various PSAs, in the Herald Independent, on the Facebook page and on the website. Resource Solutions also sent out postcards to 1,000+ Monona homes.

6. New Business

a. 2022 Memorial Day Parade

Nancy and Elisa were getting the “Lawnmower Brigade” officially registered for the parade on May 30st. The parade location was changed from Monona Drive to Broadway. The Committee members discussed recruiting volunteers and lawnmowers for the parade.

The Committee also discussed what signs the people in the parade should carry and agreed to work on sign designs before the parade. Elisa agreed to look into the cost of printing a banner with the Sustainability Committee logo.

b. No Mow May Campaign

Monona’s City Council would be considering and likely adopting a No Mow May resolution on April 18th, and the committee discussed what should be included in a No Mow May Campaign for the City. Molly reported that Parks & Rec agreed to not mow Woodland Park and Outlet Mound, to participate. It would have required too much extra staff time and would have interfered with the recreation in most Monona Parks, to not mow all of the City’s parks. Parks staff were also concerned that they would receive lots of negative feedback from the community if all parks were not mowed during May. The Committee agreed that a robust marketing campaign for No Mow May would be important.

For promotion, articles would go out in the April and May City Newsletters, Molly would write an article for the Herald Independent, and Elisa would post on the website, Facebook page and Next Door about the campaign. Molly and Sarah agreed to record PSA’s for WVMO. The Committee also discussed designing and purchasing yard signs for the campaign. Elisa noted that the budget would be limited, because there wasn’t money in the sustainability budget for No Mow May specifically. She agreed to look over the budget, research sign printing costs and determine how many signs could be printed. Sarah agreed to design the yard sign and a flyer for the campaign, which Elisa would print to be handed out at the Earth Week event. If No Mow May was to become an annual campaign, the Committee could plan for more yard signs in future years and designate budget money for the campaign.

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

City Council members recently completed the Nehemiah Black History for a New Day course.

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

Teresa and Ken asked about the Forestry Fund and Nancy responded that the Committee would need to table any joint projects with other departments about trees for now, because it was the start of the busy season for Parks and Rec and Public Works, and staff time was incredibly limited.

The Committee thanked Molly for her service on the Committee and she expressed her gratitude for the work of everyone on the committee.

9. Actionable Items

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: First – Molly, second - Teresa. Carried.