

CITY OF MONONA
Sustainability Committee
Thursday, May 12, 2022
Meeting Minutes – FINAL

1. Call to Order

6:34 PM – Meeting called to order by Alder Teresa Radermacher.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Alder Teresa Radermacher, Alder Patrick DePula, Sue Vogt, Sarah Smith, Ken Walz

Absent: Dan Costello

Staff Present: Elisa Guerrero, Sustainability Coordinator

3. Approval of Minutes from the April 14, 2022 Sustainability Committee Meeting

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

4. Appearances

None

5. Unfinished Business

a. Earth Day Event

Elisa shared that over 6 tons of material was collected from over 100 cars at the 2022 Earth Day event. Attendance was lower than in 2021, likely due to various factors like competing Earth Day events, nice weather, and overlap in the audience targeted for marketing. For 2023, the event would be scheduled for the Saturday before Earth Day, to avoid competing with other Earth Day events. Additionally, the Committee would brainstorm how to market the event to new audiences for next year.

b. No Mow May

Elisa shared the outreach efforts completed for No Mow May, including printing a limited run of yard signs. Sarah designed the signs, and a total of 75 signs were purchased. 25 were purchased from the Sustainability Committee's budget, and the others were purchased by Teresa and Ken. 25 of those signs were delivered to Monona Grove School District, who agreed to not mow their properties for the month.

There was a sign-up sheet for the rest of the signs, which would be given out first come first serve and people would be asked to donate \$5 to help cover the cost of the signs. Any people who signed up and weren't able to get a sign would help inform how many signs to order in 2023.

c. Memorial Day Parade

The Committee was registered as an entry in the Memorial Day Parade for the “Lawnmower Brigade”. Many Committee members were not available to be at the parade, so Teresa agreed to reach out to Nancy about how many non-committee member volunteers were available. If not enough volunteers were available, then Elisa would cancel the Committee’s entry and it would be postponed until 2023.

6. New Business

a. Calendar of Outreach Events for 2022

Teresa shared that she would like the Committee to develop a set calendar of outreach events and campaigns that would happen each year, to help focus the committee’s efforts and allow for advanced planning. The calendar would include events like Earth Day, National Night Out, and campaigns like No Mow May and Adopt-a-Stormdrain. She proposed assigning one committee member as the ‘point person’ for each outreach event/campaign, who would then be responsible for coordinating the effort. This would allow for more advanced planning and would help reduce strain on staff time.

In addition to outreach efforts, Teresa said that the Committee could focus on some targeted, longer-term City operations projects that required coordination with other departments and committees. She emphasized that the Committee would need to plan well in advance for these projects, in order to advocate for certain changes or projects at particular committee meetings or during specific budget discussions. Reviewing the City’s capital and operating budget timelines would be helpful to cover at future Sustainability Committee meetings. Part of deciding which of these projects to pursue would likely include reviewing the 2015 Sustainability Plan.

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

Sue mentioned that one of the Eco-Action Tuesday events at the library would be an educational presentation about how to choose, plant and care for trees in residential yards. Elisa agreed to cross-promote this event on the Sustainable Monona pages.

9. Actionable Items

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: First – Patrick, second - Sarah. Carried. (8:00pm)