

CITY OF MONONA
Sustainability Committee
Thursday, June 10, 2021
Meeting Minutes – FINAL

1. Call to Order

6:45 PM – Meeting called to order by Alder Nancy Moore

2. Roll Call

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

Absent: Sue Vogt

Staff Present: Brad Bruun, Elisa Guerrero

3. Approval of Minutes from the April 8, 2021 Sustainability Committee Meeting

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

4. Appearances

None

5. Unfinished Business

Nancy moved to take agenda item 6A out of order to be discussed first. The motion carried.

A. Staff Update – LED Streetlights and HVAC project recommendations

Brad gave an update on the LED streetlight project calculations, outlining how much the phased retrofitting of residential streetlights would cost and that the savings would be over the lifetime of the lights would be over \$90,000. He explained that the most cost effective way to do the project would be to have MGE retrofit streetlights with LED fixtures when they do their regular maintenance of the lights. Brad's recommendation to the Committee was to support the LED streetlight project as part of the 2024 and 2025 capital budgets, to align with the MGE maintenance schedule.

The Committee also discussed smaller streetlight retrofit projects that could be addressed in the meantime, like the Monona Drive and Broadway corridors, or the industrial area south of the beltline. Ken said it would be good to have all the cost savings numbers at the ready for grant applications, such as Focus on Energy grants.

Brad then summarized the project to upgrade the HVAC system at the Library, explaining that the scope would be reduced because the 2022 budget would be very tight. The project would have to be completed in phases through 2024, starting with upgrading the system controls, the getting engineering designs and finally moving on to construction. Nancy said that once Brad received a project report from Strand and got feedback from the Facilities Committee, then this Committee could decide how best to advocate for the project. Molly asked that members think about people who might be able to show up to committee meetings in support of the project.

B. Energy Campaign

i. Staff Update – Sustainability Champions, Outreach Opportunities

Elisa gave an update on the Sustainability Champions project, saying that it was on hold until we got more information from the MG21 students about their ability to continue interviews over the summer. At a minimum, interviews would likely start up again in the fall.

Nancy was working with Renew WI to set up a webinar about the MadiSUN program, likely on July 27. Staff and committee members could help by promoting the webinar once it is planned.

ii. Monona Community Festival Tabling

Molly explained the opportunity to table at the Monona Community Festival over 4th of July weekend. Outreach could include promoting the 2020 Dashboard, the Sustainability Champions map, seed cards and selling Bike Monona t-shirts. Sarah, Ken and Molly said they might be in town to table on 7/4. Elisa would get the 2020 Dashboard printed and set up a QR code for the Sustainability Champions map.

iii. Seed Card Distribution

Sarah was continuing to hand out seed cards at the Farmers Market and recommended that others help by handing our seed cards in multiple places at the market.

6. New Business

A. Dane County Solar Group Buy Presentation

Peter Fiala, from Legacy Solar Co-op presented to the Committee about the 2021 Dane County Solar Group Buy for which Monona residents are eligible. He talked about the benefits of rooftop solar, the financing options available, and explained the process of participating in a solar group buy.

Nancy asked how cost saving compare between the Legacy Solar group buy and the one available through MadiSUN, and Mr. Fiala said the savings were similar, but they might work with different installers. He clarified that a rooftop solar array can last between 30 and 40 years with about 2% efficiency loss per year, and that the warranty generally covers 25 years. Ken asked how many group buy opportunities were provided annually, and Mr. Fiala responded that they were considering adding a second opportunity this year.

B. 2021 Project Priorities Discussion

Nancy summarized the future priorities document, and offered to send out a survey to gauge the Committee's interest in the different projects listed. She reminded the committee that they should be selective about the projects they would like to pursue, to maximize staff time and impact. Dan asked that an item about increased food access be added, and Molly suggested a regular park clean up. Nancy said selecting a couple outreach items as well as a couple longer-term projects would be a good balance.

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

Nancy reported that 18 people applied to be on the City's Ad Hoc Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee.

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

The Committee discussed returning to in-person meetings and decided to continue with online meetings for the time being.

9. Actionable Items

None

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: First – Dan, second – Molly. Passed at 8:30pm.