

**CITY OF MONONA**  
**Sustainability Committee**  
**Thursday, August 12, 2021**  
***Meeting Minutes – FINAL***

**1. Call to Order**

6:32 PM – Meeting called to order by Alder Nancy Moore

**2. Roll Call**

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

**Absent:** Chris Conrad

**Staff Present:** Elisa Guerrero

**3. Approval of Minutes from the June 10, 2021 and July 8, 2021 Sustainability Committee Meetings**

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

**4. Appearances**

None

**5. Unfinished Business**

**A. Outreach Efforts**

**i. Renew WI Webinar Recap**

Elisa reported on the Renew WI webinar, which about 6-7 people attended. The recording of the webinar is posted on the Sustainable Monona Facebook page and website, so that those who could not attend the webinar can still view it. Ken said that getting an audience of 5-10 people was typical for similar webinars hosted by Madison College.

**ii. National Night Out**

Molly explained that National Night Out was postponed to 8/17, due to weather. Sarah, Teresa and Sue said they would be available to table, and Elisa said she would coordinate getting outreach materials to them.

**iii. Fall Festival**

Nancy agreed to contact the Parks department about the dates of the Fall Festival and see about setting up a sustainability tent.

**B. 2021-2022 Project Priorities**

Nancy reviewed the results of the project priorities survey, which showed creating an energy roadmap as one of the items of highest importance for committee members. Other highly ranked items were collaborating with other organizations on outreach efforts, creating a sustainable development policy and identifying funding for a part-time sustainability coordinator position. Nancy suggested organizing into three work-groups to focus on an energy roadmap, outreach efforts and policy measures, respectively. Each group could include committee members and community members, and would report to the committee on their progress.

Molly suggested choosing one project/area to focus on, rather than breaking into groups, because the committee often is weighted down when trying to tackle too many projects. She gave examples of policy projects that could be good focuses for the committee, including revisions to the City's RFP matrix to include sustainability and equity metrics or informing more culturally relevant maintenance practices for the burial mounds located in City parks. Dan agreed that focusing on one project would be better and said that, while not the most exciting, policy work is foundational and can be a catalyst for other projects. He mentioned that there are many good resources for pursuing policy groundwork.

Sue commented that many residents are not familiar with the sustainability committee and asked if there were ways to get community input on policy decisions. Nancy said that having one focus was fine, but worried that many policy issues fell under the purview of other City committees. She said she did not want the sustainability committee to try to be subject experts for many different policy proposals.

Ken mentioned that policy is one tool for creating change and would be a component of a strategic roadmap. He added that a strategic roadmap could also help the committee pursue funding opportunities like the Public Service Commission's OEI grants or Focus on Energy financial incentives. Nancy said that a roadmap should focus on one area, like energy, because the City already has an overarching Sustainability Plan. Teresa supported creating a strategic energy roadmap and commented that having a main project with specific deadlines and an end date could be good motivation for the committee.

The committee discussed continuing some outreach efforts in addition to creating an energy roadmap. Ken commented that education and community outreach could be incorporated into the roadmap and might help when applying for project funding.

A motion was made by Molly, seconded by Dan, to designate creation of a strategic energy roadmap as the Sustainability Committee's main project for the remainder of 2021.

The motion carried.

## **6. New Business**

### **A. Sustainability Committee 2022 Budget – Discussion**

Elisa walked the committee through the draft 2022 operating budget proposal. Brad had put forward a proposal to increase the Planning and Sustainability Intern position pay to \$18/hour and increase the weekly hours from 18 to 20. The intern position is paid for from the Administrative Department budget, and the proposed changes would increase the budget by \$2350. To compensate for the increase, the Sustainability operating budget could be reduced from \$2500 to \$1000, with \$500 allocated for the Earth Day e-cycling event and \$500 allocated for outreach and marketing needs. The Professional Development budget line item would be reduced from \$500 to \$250 and moved into the Administrative Department operating budget.

The committee supported the proposed changes to the operating budget.

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

### **A. Burial Mound Maintenance Best Practices**

Molly shared that a set of best practices for mound maintenance had been passed on to the Parks Department, thanks to help from Sue. Additionally, the City's RFP matrix may be revised to include goals around sustainability and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion that can be taken into account when deciding how contracts are awarded.

Nancy mentioned that one of the recommendations from the UniverCity Year project had been to incorporate more interpretive signage about Monona's burial mounds into city parks. Molly said that there was likely to be some action on that front soon, starting with Woodland Park.

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

Nancy mentioned that there were some development proposals coming before the Plan Commission that had interested aspects of sustainability and possible affordable housing options.

## **9. Actionable Items**

None

## **10. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn: First – Molly, second – Sarah. Passed at 8:05pm.