

CITY OF MONONA
Sustainability Committee
Thursday, September 10, 2020
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, Alder Molly Grupe, Teresa Radermacher, Sue Vogt, Dan Costello, Chris Conrad

Members Absent: Pat Howell, Sarah Smith

Staff Present: Brad Bruun, Elisa Guerrero

3. Approval of 5/14/2020 Meeting Minutes

4. Approval of 7/9/2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve: First – Teresa, Second – Chris. Passed with no corrections.

5. Appearances

None

6. Unfinished Business

A. Staff Update – MSBI Survey, Madison Compost and Rain Barrel Sales, MGE RER

Brad summarized the changes to the Monona Sustainable Business (MSBI) survey that were made, including adding questions about equity and inclusion and employee benefits, with input from Katya Spears of the Center on Wisconsin Strategy (COWS). He added that the additions to the survey are in line with some improvement made to the Green Tier Legacy Communities (GTLC) framework. Various committee members voiced their support for the additional equity questions. Alder Moore asked how the new equity questions would fit with the work that the Nehemiah Center would do for the City. The committee members discussed possible overlap between the two and decided to ask for input and feedback on the survey questions from the Nehemiah staff.

Brad said that program goals include good business participation and fostering a sense of community between residents and local businesses. Teresa and Nancy acknowledged the shift in focus of the program from data collection to resource provision. Dan said that in order to achieve that, it would be important to have an effective outreach program and good resources to help businesses through the process. He suggested having someone check in with participating businesses throughout the process, to provide them with support. The committee discussed the best way to include MESBA in the project, including in getting businesses to participate, finding a program champion and with program support. Dan mentioned that the committee should support MESBA if they want to expand the program to Madison businesses. Molly suggested looking for businesses to participate at EDGER program meetings. Brad said that the survey should be tested by a couple businesses before it is fully rolled out, to get feedback and work out any issues. He also said that some committee members and staff should have a meeting with the MESBA president about partnership before the start of the program. Nancy asked if Brad and Elisa could put together a work-plan and program timeline for the committee to review at the next meeting. Additionally, she suggested that the committee eventually form a work-group to help implement the program.

The committee briefly discussed promoting the Madison Compost and Rain Barrel sale. Elisa agreed to post about the event on Facebook and the Sustainable Monona website page. Molly agreed to record a PSA. Brad then gave an update on the RER with MGE and conversations they had about a shared solar project. Chris suggested that the committee could directly engage with solar companies like Full Spectrum to get solar arrays installed on campuses like WPS, instead of waiting for approval of a shared solar project with MGE. Nancy asked Brad to send a map of the areas being considered for shared solar, and Chris agreed to reach out to Full Spectrum about a partnership.

Molly gave a short update on the Energy Campaign, reminding everyone to add information about sustainability projects into the shared Google doc, so that Brad could put together an interactive map. She said that the Library did not agree to hand out seed cards with books because of COVID-19 concerns. Dan suggested reaching out to MG21, since they have a sustainability track for students starting this fall and said he would reach out to them. Sue said that students could collaborate with the Community Media department to get good video and photo content of the projects for the map. Nancy mentioned that seed cards could also be handed out at the Monona Farmers Market, since it is one of few in-person events being held. Brad agreed to look for the contact list of residents interested in sustainability.

7. New Business

A. 2021 Budget Planning

Brad gave an overview of the proposed 2021 budget, which included \$9,000 for the Sustainability Intern position, \$500 for outreach and marketing, \$500 for staff professional development, funds for Energy Campaign outreach, \$500 for the Earth Day event, and funds for the MSBI. Dan asked to include funds for home energy audit outreach within the Energy Campaign budget; comparable to the \$1000 budgeted for the Energy Fair in 2019. The committee discussed funds for the MSBI, but Nancy said that outreach and promotion should stay in-house or with MESBA, given how tight the City's 2021 budget will be. The committee decided to budget \$0 for MSBI.

A motion by Molly, seconded by Sue, to approve the 2021 budget passed unanimously.

8. Actionable Items

Staff will prepare staff reports on "green zoning" initiatives and LED streetlights for the next meeting.

Staff will present a work plan and timeline for MSBI at the next meeting.

9. Adjournment

8:37 PM – Motion to adjourn: First – Molly, Second – Dan.

Next Meeting: October 8, 2020 at 6:30

Please notify Brad Bruun at (608) 222-2525 or bbruun@ci.monona.wi.us if you cannot attend the meeting.