

**CITY OF MONONA**  
**Sustainability Committee**  
**Thursday, November 10, 2022**  
***Meeting Minutes – FINAL***

**1. Call to Order**

6:30 PM – Meeting called to order by Alder Teresa Radermacher.

**2. Roll Call**

**Members Present:** Alder Teresa Radermacher, Alder Patrick DePula, Kristin Gunther, Sarah Smith, and Ashley Gries

**Absent:** Ken Walz, Sue Vogt, and Dan Costello

**Others Present:** Assistant Planner Thor Jeppson

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

A motion by Alder DePula, seconded by Ms. Gunther, for approval of the minutes of May 12, 2022 and October 13, 2022 carried with no corrections.

**4. Appearances**

None

**5. Unfinished Business**

None

**6. New Business**

**a. Adopt-a-Stormdrain and Leaf Management Report Out**

Alder Radermacher reported that leaf management PSAs continue to air on WVMO and that there was a submission in the City newsletter. There was also communication to those who had volunteered to adopt a stormdrain.

**b. Upcoming Projects**

Alder Radermacher shared the annual outreach calendar and the Committee brainstormed potential activities for each event.

The Committee will focus on smart salting practices for the winter season. Alder DePula asked if the Committee should tie in awareness efforts around salt use from water softeners. He proposed the Committee work to get the City to fund rebates for efficient softeners and see if private businesses would be willing to create a campaign to encourage the switch to efficient water softeners. Alder DePula said he would look into potential

grants and resources. Alder Radermacher suggested the water softener effort could occur year round, but sidewalk salt is seasonal and should be the focus for the winter.

Alder Radermacher suggested the Committee create PSAs, a newsletter submission, and educational materials about water softener use and sidewalk salt. Alder DePula said that flyers could be put on pizza boxes. Wisconsin Salt Wise has an annual salt awareness week, and they have several resources the Committee can utilize. Ashley and Kristin will lead this effort and create an outreach plan. Alder Radermacher said that focus can also include water softeners if there is way that the Committee can do something measurable.

Public Works Project Manager Brad Bruun and Thor will work with Resource Solutions to organize the Earth Day E-Cycle event.

Sarah asked if the Committee should add a “Leaf it” campaign to encourage leaf mulching to the Adopt-a-Stormdrain and leaf management efforts. She volunteered to design a yard sign. She said this could help improve Public Works leaf collection without requiring any equipment upgrades of Public Works.

Alder Radermacher asked if the Committee had any ideas for No Mow May. Ashley asked about if there were efforts around native plantings. Sarah asked about the details of the No Mow May ordinance and if taller native plantings are allowed. Alder Radermacher said she would look in to it.

Ashley proposed a native plant sale and Sarah discussed including one with the Earth Day event. Alder DePula suggested a plant sale could help raise funds for the Committee. Kristin said that plant sales could provide opportunity for collaboration with community partners like MGSD, and that rain garden promotion could also be tied in.

Sarah proposed No Mow May bookmarks which could be handed out at the Library. Alder Radermacher proposed flyers on pizza boxes and yard signs. Alder DePula suggested the Committee ask for donations for the yard signs.

Alder Radermacher suggested the Committee utilize the Memorial Day Parade to hand out flyers and promote No Mow May and salt awareness.

The Committee has previously used the Monona Community Festival for tabling. Ashley suggested tabling at the Farmers Market as well.

Alder Radermacher said that for a previous National Night Out, the Committee coordinated with City Police and Fire to demonstrate electric vehicles, bicycles, and lawn mowers.

Alder Radermacher reminded the Committee that external volunteers are always welcome to assist with Committee projects.

**c. Sustainability Plan Implementation**

Alder Radermacher recapped the conversation at the previous meeting. She reminded the Committee that their power is in the Sustainability Plan, and that moving forward requires bringing Sustainability Plan objectives in front of City Council and other commissions. She said that there is a need to better document what work has been done.

**d. 2021 Sustainability Dashboard**

The annual sustainability dashboard is intended to recap and disseminate which goals were accomplished that year. Kristin asked how efforts have been prioritized in previous years. Alder Radermacher responded that the Committee previously agreed to prioritize energy use and renewable energy strategies.

**e. 2023 Budget proposal discussion**

Alder Radermacher shared that the budget has been increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000 for 2023.

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

None.

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

None.

**9. Actionable Items**

None.

**10. Adjournment**

A motion by Alder DePula, seconded by Ms. Gunther, to adjourn carried (7:37PM).

Submitted by,

Thor Jeppson, Assistant Planner