



CITY OF NOVI
Environmental Sustainability Committee Meeting
June 2, 2025, 5:30 p.m.
Mayor's Conference Room | Novi Civic Center | 45175 Ten Mile Road
(248) 347-0445

CALL TO ORDER: 5:31p.m.

ROLL CALL: Council Members Gurumurthy, Heintz, and Smith

STAFF LIAISON: Danielle Mahoney, Assistant City Manager

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Gurumurthy; Seconded: Heintz; Approved 3:0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 19, 2025 Minutes

Motion: Heintz; Seconded: Gurumurthy; Approved 3:0

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Smith had no remarks and stated that they will jump straight into the discussion.

MATTERS FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. Plan Framework and Prioritization

Councilmember Gurumurthy thanked the Commissioners for their thoughts and for the framework sheets Chair Smith had prepared. They've organized their goals under the four pillars and organized it further into three color-coded categories. Purple for already implemented/in-progress, Orange for difficult or "heavier lifts", and green for easier "quick wins." Assistant City Manager Mahoney said that if more adjustments are needed there are additional post-its available but otherwise the group can proceed. She also noted that, on initial review by Councilmember Gurumurthy and herself there are quite a few "green" items. The Committee then proceed to take time reviewing and making adjustments to the current array.

Councilmember Gurumurthy briefly explained to the attending public, Mr. Mark Ditusa, that this exercise it for the Committee to review their previous goals and idea session, and organize them by prioritization. Councilmember Heintz asked what it was that they were envisioning as the outcome of the exercise and Councilmember Gurumurthy replied that it is to have a plan. For example, going platinum for Michigan Green Communities, we can look at the cards from that angle. Ms. Mahoney agreed, noting that Novi is currently at the gold level and that there is a list of items we must consistently meet to maintain that level. To meet platinum, we have to establish stated goals which we then meet. This could also be a discussion to be had with City Council as a whole to determine which items we want to proceed with. The platinum level was only added in 2024, she can look into getting a list of those communities, if any, have already reached platinum. It would be a tangible stretch for Novi to try for platinum or even set it as a goal for the next five or more

years, depending on viability. We might need to conduct a study to see where we are and establish baselines for some metrics.

Councilmember Heintz stated that, in speaking with the Southfield Sustainability Manager, they have a specific focus each month to work on. He suggested that the Committee could set a similar calendar for themselves to do deeper dives. He'd like to develop a spreadsheet of experts in the City on various topics so that they can be called on when needed. Chair Smith agreed, saying that they could even consider putting a call out for such experts online to request input.

Chair Smith asked if Michigan Green Communities were evaluated yearly, to which Ms. Mahoney responded in the affirmative. Councilmember Gurumurthy said that the City team might consider an evaluation to better identify what we are already doing or in the process of implementation. This would help determine steps that may need support for completion.

The Committee then further organized ideas based on priority.

REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Mahoney suggested that for the next meeting the Committee can work on narrowing their scope. She will send out the platinum communities checklist so they can identify gaps which the Committee's ideas might be able to fill. Councilmember Gurumurthy noted that there are things that they can work on to divide and conquer. Chair Smith agreed and said that he would take the results of this session to summarize for the next meeting. Ms. Mahoney will send a checklist to see what has and hasn't been completed so they can talk over what can be accomplished through the end of the year. They will also work on queueing up some of the deeper dives for later on such as with City Forester Keith Salowich and Facilities Manager Matt Turco.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT: 6:48 p.m.

Motion: Smith; Seconded: Heintz; Approved 3:0