

CITY OF SHEBOYGAN
SUSTAINABLE SHEBOYGAN TASK FORCE MINUTES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair James Van Akkeren, Lora Hagen, Cheryl Sohn, Chris Kuehnel, Akshay Jain, Rebecca Stewart, Jeanne Kliejunas, and Rebecca Clarke

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jennifer Rutten, Mark Mahoney, Leovardo Aguilar

OTHERS PRESENT: Jared Soto, Steven Griffith, Paul Reinemann, Tracey Ludvik, Linda Shimon, Bryan Kelly

STAFF/OFFICIALS PRESENT:

OPENING OF MEETING

1. Call to Order

Chair James Van Akkeren called the meeting to order at 4:32 PM

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES

3. Approval of Minutes: February 7, 2024.

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 10, 2024.

Motion made by Jeanne Kliejunas, seconded by Rebecca Clarke. Motion carried

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

4. Public Input (Limit 3 minutes per individual)

Bryan Kelly has been observing city meetings. Hoping SSTF will have input into the city's Comprehensive Plan and Complete Streets Plan.

Steven Griffith has been communicating with SASD regarding volunteering to work on reducing the district's energy usage.

Linda Shimon wrote a letter to SASD re: sustainable practices to be implemented in new buildings.

5. Committee Membership Status

Committee membership status was discussed. Mark Mahoney has been made a member. Linda Shimon has applied. If members don't attend meetings and don't respond to Jim's communications, they will be off the committee in April, as per city rules.

6. Sustainable Five Minutes

Sustainable 5 minutes will be a time any member can share news or nuggets they think are important.

7. Healthy Sheboygan County-Cheryl Sohn

Cheryl Sohn attended a Healthy Sheboygan County meeting. It is an initiative to determine what problems Sheboygan County faces. Affordable child care and affordable housing were identified as the most immediate and prevalent issues. The group meets at UWGB campus once per month from 2-4 pm. Next meetings: April 8, May 13, June 10. The next meeting will be large consisting of many reps from various organizations.

8. Report on Meeting with the Mayor

SSTF Chair Jim met with Mayor Sorenson. City Administrator was not present. Mayor was asked again for a rep from City Council or a department head to attend SSTF meetings. Mayor said if there is a particular issue, ask and the appropriate person will attend. Mayor suggested SSTF put together information to be disseminated re: tax credits/rebates for installing green energy sources in residential and commercial buildings. Mayor agreed SSTF should present sustainability information at City Council meetings when new members come on board, May 6 or May 20. Can submit written report bi-monthly if desired. We should present information to the city's Comprehensive Plan meetings this summer. Discussion of developing a Sheboygan Sustainability Plan. Mayor asked SSTF to compile plans from other cities to assist us in getting one written. It will be necessary to have a plan to obtain federal grant monies. City planning office has information on PACE program (loans for green energy implementation). Discussed new middle school proposals. Jim voiced concerns with Urban's placement and the ability of students to ride bike or walk to school. The SASD said surveys found that about 80% are riding to Urban now. Jim received permission to talk to the school architect about sustainability issues concerning the proposed new schools. Wisconsin Green and Healthy Schools site is a great source for questions and solutions re: green practices. The Mayor suggested we arrange a video chat with the Esslingen sustainability scientist.

9. Report of the Land Use and Conservation Subcommittee

City is applying for an Urban Forestry Grant. Grant specifies they are to be planted in disadvantaged neighborhoods. Joe Kerlin provided map of city spots they mow and SSTF can consider proposing for no mowing and/or planting of natives. Each member will scope out these spots in a ward to see which spots work. Discussed No Mow May. Joe Majerus of Landmark Landscaping is a great source for natural landscape tips. Next subcommittee meeting TBD. (Rebecca S. will let us know).

10. Report of the Education and Outreach Subcommittee

Subcommittee is putting together a sustainability info presentation for city council, to be presented 5/6 or 5/20. They will also put together a more comprehensive presentation for Sheboygan community to be presented at 5/16 @ Mead, Rocca Room, 6:30-7:30. Next subcommittee meeting: 4/3 @ 5:15 pm.

11. Report of Energy, Housing, Infrastructure and Transportation Subcommittee

Electric Vehicle Fair, now called EV Expo, to be held 9/14 from 9-12 at Maywood. All EVs (including bikes, motorcycles) and plug-in hybrids. SSTF members need to volunteer to be there 8:30-12:30 to help.

12. Events of Interest: In the Weeds Mead Library 3/14; Wintergreen, Mead Library 3/16; Flapjack Day, Maywood 3/17; Maywood's Nature Based Book Club, Mead Library, 4/6; Nature at Noon, Sustainability, Maywood, 4/9; Adopt-A-Habitat Training, Maywood, 4/13 and 4/17; Earth Day Park Clean-up, Maywood, 4/20; Willow Creek Clean-up, Glacial Lakes, 4/20; Native Plant Sale, Maywood/Johnson's Nursery, now through 5/4; Mead Seed Library, continuous.

Friends of Black River Forest 3/14 Paradigm, 4-6:30.

NEXT MEETING DATE

13. Next Meeting Date: April 10, 2024 4:30PM

ADJOURN

14. Motion to Adjourn

Motion made by Chris Kuehnel, seconded by Cheryl Sohn. Motion carried.