

**CITY OF MENASHA
SUSTAINABILITY BOARD
February 24, 2022
Minutes**

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Called to order by Linda Stoll at 4:02PM

B. ROLL CALL/EXCUSED ABSENCES

Attending: Kyle Coenen, Roger Kanitz, Kelsey Perry, Linda Stoll, Kathy Thunes

Also Attending: Mayor Donald Merkes

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY MATTER OF CONCERN TO THE SUSTAINABILITY BOARD

None

D. MINUTES TO APPROVE

Motion by Kathy Thunes second by Kyle Coenen to approve the minutes of 1-27-2022 noting that UW-Fox Cities should be UWO-Fox Cities with the reorganization of the UW system two year campuses.

Motion Caries

E. ACTION ITEMS

None

F. DISCUSSION

1. Sustainability Plan, Benchmarking and Comparison with other communities

a. Energy Innovation Grant and Comprehensive Energy Plan

Discussion regarding the importance of benchmarking and value of the Comprehensive Energy Plan to the City's efforts to be more sustainable. The grant awards announcement is expected in March 2022, if successful the implementation period to write the plan is expected to be Spring of 2022 – 2023.

b. GTLC

Discussion regarding GTLC chart and benchmarks being useful for comparison purposes with other communities.

2. Transportation

a. Bike Friendly Communities Designation

Discussion regarding recommendations from League of American Bicyclists to increase Menasha to silver status:

▪ *"increase the amount of high quality bike parking throughout the community"*

Discussion regarding potential for student participation to survey bike destinations, businesses, and recreational areas for bike parking. Don will check with schools and Boys and Girls Club to do survey. Kelsey will check with FVTC to see if they still fabricate bike racks as part of their classwork. Linda will review parking ordinance regarding including bike parking offsets.

▪ Questions on how we better share information with our regional bike advisory committee (Fox Cities Greenways).

▪ *"improve bicycle safety education for students of all ages"*

Discussion regarding SRTS program that is beginning to be developed with MJSD. Invite Ashley Tracy from ECWRPC to next Sustainability Board meeting to see if there are ways that the Board can assist.

▪ Invite Laura Jungworth, Public Works Director, to a future Sustainability Board meeting to discuss implementation of the Complete Streets Policy and develop ways that the Board can assist.

- Invite Michelle Bachaus, Wisconsin Bike Federation, to a future Sustainability Board meeting to discuss how the board can partner with the Bike Federation on biking events.

3. Land Use

Request for information

- regarding distribution of property values (low, medium, high, and percentage of each)
- property value per acre
- property value per sq foot
- homeowner / renter
- % canopy cover

4. Natural Resources

a. 2022 Arbor Day Celebration

The City's 39th annual Arbor Day celebration is planned for April 29th 2022 in the area north and west of Menasha High School. This year's theme will be career opportunities in Urban Forestry, introducing students with hands on activities in arboriculture.

b. Natural Landscaping and Maintenance

Discussion regarding strategies to promote natural landscaping in both public and private spaces throughout the City including:

- Wild One's Plant Sale
- Educational Programming for the public and City staff
- Utilizing existing Heckrodt plantings to provide examples
- Library newsletter and social media

Discussion of maintenance of ECWRPC rain garden which was a joint project with the sustainability board and ECWRPC employees. Employees at ECWRPC that were involved with the project are no longer with the organization.

5. Energy

a. Streetlight upgrades to LED

Focus on Energy has approved the application to replace 156 street lights and 41 trail lights to LED in 2022. There is an option to replace an additional 205 streetlights in 2023. The streetlights are located east of Oneida Street, the trail lights are on the trestle and the trail segment behind the Public Works Facility.

b. Third Party Financing Solar

No report

6. Water

a. Stormwater Educational Signage

Board recommended incorporating comments provided including actions that the public can take. In addition, recommended a city or DNR contact on the signs for more information. Verify if stormwater is one or two words.

7. Waste

a. 2022 Electronics Recycling Event May 7 and September 21, 2022

Review distribution email list. Need volunteers.

8. Health

No report

G. Future Meeting Dates

Revise meeting dates to include November 17, 2022 for the November date. Keep December 22 as December date.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Kyle Coenen second by Roger Kanitz to adjourn at 6:02PM

Motion Carries

City of Menasha

Street Tree Benefits

Menasha street trees provide thousands of dollars of environmental, economic and aesthetic benefits to the community. Over their lifetime, street tree benefits exceed the costs of planting and care, representing a 300 percent return on investment. Tree benefits increase over time highlighting the importance of not only planting trees, but of providing ongoing maintenance and protection. These benefits are a reminder of the worthwhile investment in our community forestry program.

Trees:

- Reduce stormwater runoff
- Lower summer air temperatures
- Reduce air pollution
- Reduce heating and cooling costs
- Reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂)
- Enhance property values
- Provide wildlife habitat
- Improve health and wellbeing
- Improve learning and concentration
- Provide aesthetic benefits

Annually **Menasha** public street trees provide¹...

