

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Kyler Arndt at 4:00PM.

B. ROLL CALL

Attending: Kyler Arndt, Kyle Coenen, Roger Kanitz, Kelsey Perry

Also Attending: Mayor Donald Merkes

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

None

D. MINUTES TO APPROVE

Motion by Kyle Coenen second by Roger Kanitz to approve the minutes of 2-24-2022.

Motion Carried

E. ACTION ITEMS

None

F. DISCUSSION

1. Sustainability Plan, Benchmarking and Comparison with other communities

a. Energy Innovation Grant and Comprehensive Energy Plan

Comprehensive Energy Plan grant awards announcement is expected in April 2022; if successful, the implementation period to write the plan is expected to be spring of 2022 – 2023. LED fixtures ordered for 2022 upgrades on east of Oneida lighting, trestle, and PWF trail to be installed later this year.

Solar Garden system update desired at future Sustainability Board meeting.

2. Transportation

a. Bike Friendly Communities Designation

School district has interest in helping with student volunteers to do a survey of bike parking within the community. They are verifying how they might be able to structure this. This data would be used to determine if zoning ordinance changes could be proposed. Contact was made with FVTC to see if there is preliminary interest in fabricating bike racks for Menasha as part of their class programming. Bird Scooter pilot has been presented to Common Council, MOU is in development for approval with expected implementation in 2022. Menasha, Neenah, Appleton and Fox Crossing are currently working with Bird for a potential program in their communities; there is no cost to the municipalities, for riders pay all costs.

3. Land Use

a. Housing type and value data not readily available with current GIS system; it could be compiled as the GIS system is expanded.

b. Canopy Cover data was reviewed and noted that Menasha has good percentage compared to other peer communities. A goal should be set as part of an urban forestry management plan with implementation plan to achieve. Sustainability Board would be interested in having the City Arborist share planning and maintenance of our forestry assets at a future meeting.

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

There are grants and educational opportunities for watershed shoreline planting and naturalization projects. Kelsey will check if there are current grant possibilities that could be used for 2023 planting of Banta Point. Plants for existing rain gardens are ordered from Wild Ones plant sale. Wild Ones continues to be interested in educational opportunities for staff and public. Sustainability Board members are interested in helping with extra plant transfers from ECWRPC rain garden to other City rain gardens.

- c. "No Mow May" has been practiced in Appleton for 3 years, with the program implemented in 20 communities in Wisconsin. Studies have shown that bee populations have increased 5 fold and diversity 3 fold. Marci Fry contacted City to show support for No Mow May. Appleton Ald. Del Toro was contacted and can provide additional information if desired.

Sustainability Board recommends that City consider implementing "No Mow May" for 2022 with reasonable expectations as provided in packet including registration, signage, and no past citations/notices for tall grass and weeds

5. Energy

6. Water

a. Stormwater Educational Signage

Board reviewed updated signs and provided minimal/grammatical revisions. Recommended separate background colors for each type of sign (wetland, raingarden, pond, underground). Kelsey will match photos that Heckrodt has available to spaces on the signs. Once photos are in place signs will be forwarded to graphic designer for final layout.

7. Waste

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

Kyle will be distributing flyers to area businesses. Kyler will volunteer day of. Roger and Kathy will review electronic e-mail distribution list.

8. Health

a. Farm Fresh Market

COVID has been hard on the market for the past few years. There is some interest however there are not final commitments at this time.

G. Future Meeting Dates

April meeting will likely be held at the Public Works Facility, 455 Baldwin St, and include DPW Director Jungwirth.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Roger Kanitz second by Kyle Coenen to adjourn at 5:50PM.

Motion Carried