

**CITY OF MENASHA**  
**SUSTAINABILITY BOARD**  
**June 23, 2022**  
**Minutes**

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Called to order by Linda Stoll at 4:04

B. ROLL CALL

Attending: Kyler Arndt, Kyle Coenen, Austin Hammond, Roger Kanitz, Kelsey Parry, Linda Stoll, Kathy Thunes  
Also Attending: Mayor Donald Merkes, Ana Acosta

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

No one spoke

D. MINUTES TO APPROVE

Motion by Roger Kanitz second by Austin Hammond to approve the minutes of 5-26-2022.  
Motion Caries with Kathy Thunes abstaining as she was not in attendance at the 5-26-2022 meeting.

E. ACTION ITEMS

None

F. DISCUSSION

1. Natural Resources

a. Environmental Speaker's Series @ Elisha D. Smith Library

The library has hosted several presentations with an environmental focus. They have connections with groups such as Wild Ones, Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance, and UW-Extension that can provide experts on multiple topics. Looking for ideas to help drive attendance to these types of presentations. Best attended presentations typically include: history, kids, crafts, give-aways. Library focus for 2023 will be intergenerational programming (educational, entertainment, hands-on). Board discussed static displays for both advertisement and education. Board would like to work with the library to continue to bring educational awareness to natural landscaping & sustainability. Partner with next year's Wild Ones Plant sale? Fox Cities Reads?

b. Natural Landscaping

Homeowners along the Lawson Canal (Riverway) continue to have interest in natural landscaping opportunities after the Racine Street Bridge is complete. Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance has participated in native shoreline planting demonstration projects and example plots. May be a good opportunity.

MJSD has approved the pollinator garden demonstration plot at City Center. Plants will be donated and installed on Monday. Kelsey will provide graphics from pollinators sign that Heckrodt uses to create an educational sign for this project.

c. Pollinator Week Proclamation

Board reviewed pollinator proclamation and noted that there is a pollinator webinar by UW-Extension that will be available for download as a podcast soon.

2. Sustainability Plan, Benchmarking and Comparison with other communities

a. Energy Innovation Grant and Comprehensive Energy Plan

While the Comprehensive Energy Plan grant was not funded City, MJSD, and Utilities staff plan to continue with building benchmarking, identifying energy reduction projects, and solar projects. WPPI identified a program to virtually commission buildings that the City will participate in to improve energy performance of some buildings. The next planned meeting is in July.

While the City did not receive their grant WPPI did receive a grant to study impacts charging electric vehicles will have on the grid. Menasha will be participating in this study.

- b. Sustainability Board Ordinance revisions  
Discussion regarding including the three dimensions of sustainability; environmental, economic, and social, the Natural Step philosophy, as well as a three year staggered term. Draft in ordinance format for next Sustainability Board meeting.

### 3. Transportation

- a. Bike Friendly Communities Designation  
Signage for Bike Friendly Community Designation should provide awareness for both drivers and bikers. Driver locations co-located at same 4 locations as Tree City Signs, Ninth & Racine, Appleton & Midway, Hwy 10-114 & Lake Park, and Nicolet & Ahnaip. Bike locations at south end of Province Terrace boardwalk and Trestle at Menasha gateway.
- b. Bike Parking Survey  
Need to revisit volunteer opportunities for the bike parking survey, potential to provide paper survey sheets. FVTC is interested in creating bike racks once we have locations.
- c. Bird Scooters  
We have seen significant usage within the City of Menasha, with minimal concerns. There is a perception that scooters can not cross municipal lines between Menasha and Neenah. The City will contact Bird to see if there are educational opportunities to change this perception.

### 4. Land Use No report

### 5. Energy

Mayor Merkes and Ald. Hammond met with Brad Spanbauer – UWO Campus Sustainability Coordinator on June 21<sup>st</sup> to learn more about UWO's sustainability efforts. There are student papers that may be of interest to us in Menasha that he will forward to us. UWO and City of Oshkosh are working on similar projects to Menasha including benchmarking buildings, residential weatherization, and canopy cover. In addition UWO is researching renewable energy blocks or self-generation, climate action plan, electrification, solar loan, biodigester, geothermal heating. We will share Menasha information regarding our solar website and WPPI renewable blocks.

### 6. Water

- a. Stormwater Educational Signage  
Members reviewed the draft signage recommended checking with DNR regarding graphics for raingardens. Waiting for a staged photo of a catch basin with yard waste as an example of what not to do.

### 7. Waste

- a. 2022 Fall Electronics Recycling Event  
Date has been changed to October 1<sup>st</sup> so it could be jointly promoted with Habitat's Rock the Block going on in Menasha that day.

### 8. Health No Report

### G. Future Meeting Dates Next meeting July 28, 2022

### H. ADJOURNMENT Motion by Kyler Arndt second by Kathy Thunes to adjourn at 5:57PM Motion Carries