

**CITY OF MENASHA
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE**

January 5, 2023

Minutes

Note: the meeting of December 22, 2022 was canceled due to weather

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Called to order at 4:01 PM

B. ROLL CALL

Attending: Kyle Coenen, Austin Hammond, Roger Kanitz, Lindsay Klumpp, Kelsey Parry, Kathy Thunes

Also Attending: Brian Adesso, Rachael Dowling, Ald. Tom Grade, Mayor Donald Merkes, Attorney Margaret Struve, Sandra Dabill-Taylor

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

Sandra Dabill-Taylor spoke regarding enforcement concerns with the proposed Urban Chickens ordinance and No Mow May

Rachael Dowling spoke regarding benefits of Urban Chickens ordinance

Ald. Tom Grade spoke in support of Urban Chickens ordinance

D. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

It was noted that although the minutes from the preceding meeting were included in the packet there was no item for approving the minutes. The minutes will be included in the next packet for approval

1. Energy

a. MJSD planning for sustainability

Brian Adesso, Director of Business Services MJSD, described some of the sustainability initiatives that the district has taken including: diverting 3300lbs of food waste to be composted rather than landfilled, increased recycling through Winnebago County, 16 school buses that run on propane, EV chargers at District Offices and High School, LED lighting upgrades, condensing boilers, Energy Star rating for most buildings saving over 14,000 tons of CO₂, exploring High School solar. Working toward solar and geothermal at the new middle school.

b. Comprehensive Energy Planning & Joint Energy Team

Committee reviewed draft grant application, supports concept and submittal of grant as well as working with Energy Team to implement. Committee noted that benchmarking and comparisons to similar buildings/communities important component of the plan.

2. Planning & Communications

a. SCN and Website <http://scn-foxvalley.com>

Contact has been made with communities formerly involved there is still interest in opportunities to share among multiple communities to compare and replicate sustainability practices. Potential for a February meeting.

- b. Earth Day Celebration
Discussion regarding unveiling stormwater signage as part of Earth Day recognition. Stands are currently under construction, storyboards are complete. Participating in Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance cleanup. Electronics Recycling.
- c. Arbor Day Celebration
Discussion regarding potential projects and locations for the City's 40th Tree City Award including: oldest/largest tree in Menasha, update champion trees of Neenah/Menasha, commemorative tree planting, planting in Racine Street bridge area, arboretum, note that Heckrodt would like to be involved.

3. Transportation

- a. High Cliff Connection
Community Foundation has hired a consultant. Next meeting January 20th.
- b. Bike Parking Survey
No update
- c. Bird Scooter Menasha 2022 report
Usage included 1,366 users; 5,523 rides; 10,907 miles. Questions regarding total number of complaints and total revenue to the City.
- d. Amtrak letter of interest Northeast WI
Committee reviewed the support letter from Fond du Lac, Oshkosh, Neenah, Menasha, Kaukauna, and Green Bay.

4. Land Use

- a. Urban Chickens
Ald. Hammond had residents contact him to reconsider the Urban Chicken ordinance that was last considered 2019. The proposed ordinance is mostly consistent with the 2019 ordinance except for the maximum number of birds allowed being six. There will be a permit fee to review zoning considerations (location and construction of the coop) as well as an annual fee. There was not interest in expanding the ordinance to include ducks at this time.

Motion by Kyle Coenen second Kelsey Parry to recommend the ordinance for Urban Chickens to the Common Council.

Motion Carries 6-0

5. Natural Resources

- a. Natural Landscaping and Maintenance
ECWRPC rain garden has been maintained and noted that the drained needs to be cleaned annually. Shoreline projects for City shoreline are in cue for 2024.
- b. No Mow May
Discussion regarding 2023

6. Energy

- a. Comprehensive Energy Planning and Joint Energy Team
Team consisting of representatives of the City, MJSD, and MU met to discuss applying for OEI grant. MJSD will be adding EV chargers at City Center and Menasha High. City could look to add them at other locations if they work well. Request for MJSD to come to a future meeting to share their sustainability efforts.

7. Water

- a. Stormwater Educational Signage
Signs are in process. Plan for Earth Day 2023 installation.

8. Waste

- a. 2023 Electronics Recycling Events May 6, 2023 & October 7, 2023
Email messages should go out earlier, we should verify when the best time to send them out is for each company including Recycle that Stuff. We can schedule the email as soon as we get the poster announcements for one or several dates. Is there a parent newsletter that we could add to for MJSD. Discuss option for St. Vincent. Could signs be made by PWF for entry?

Question regarding have there been any issues with water damaging paper/cardboard for recycling now that there is no longer a canopy over the drop off site.

9. Health

- a. Farm Fresh Market
No report

E. Future Meeting Dates
Next meeting January 26, 2023

F. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Kathy Thunes second by Lindsay Klumpp to adjourn at 5:50 PM
Motion carries.