

City of Ashland – Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Ashland Sustainability Committee was held on **Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 6 p.m.** via GoToMeeting.

Committee Members Present: Dale Kupczyk, Lissa Radke, Cheyanne Reeves, Tamara Sylte, Kate Ullman

Committee Members Absent: Parker Sterling

Staff Present: Lucas Phillips

Lucas Phillips opened the meeting at 6 p.m.

Agenda

1) Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda by Lissa Radke, seconded by Cheyanne Reeves. Passed unanimously.

2) Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the October 29 meeting will be amended to note that Tamara Sylte was not in attendance.

Motion to approve the minutes from the October 29, 2020 Sustainability Committee meeting by Lissa Radke, seconded by Cheyanne Reeves. Passed unanimously.

3) Public Comment (non-agenda items)

None

4) Projects/Discussions

a) Discussion of “Adopt A Tree” program

Lucas Phillips presented a handful of “adopt a tree” programs from other communities across the country, and asked Committee members for feedback on potentially adopting a similar program in Ashland. He stated that he will be contacting the Beautification Committee to see if they have any similar programs in place, or if they have ideas for implementing a program in the City.

Suggestions were made to start on Main Street, and work out into the neighborhoods from there.

Kate Ullman recommended talking to Parks & Rec, in particular their Tree Board, as well as reaching out to Northland and their Forestry Club to see if they would be interested

in partnering. She also recommended partnering with homeowners – particularly homeowners on Vaughn, where trees were removed during the road replacement this summer.

Lissa Radke recommended reaching out to the Chamber to see if their member businesses would be interested in adopting trees in front of their businesses. She also brought up the idea of “memorial trees” – either standalone trees throughout the city, or having a memorial garden full of sponsored trees. She mentioned that the city of Superior has one, and that we could tie it in with Earth Day or Arbor Day celebrations.

b) Discussion/brainstorming of downtown sustainability initiatives

Lucas Phillips informed Committee members that the City is partnering with MMC to purchase reusable bags for shoppers. These bags will be either 100% recycled material, or bamboo fiber, and will have the Shop WI Downtowns logo on them.

Lissa Radke mentioned that there are companies in Wisconsin who produce recycled plastic “wood” that could be used for park benches or other needs. This could be a cost-effective option, if a joint order could be placed with other large purchasers in the region.

c) Updates on demolition/recycling ordinance

Lucas Phillips updated the Committee on the status of the demolition/recycling ordinance that had been discussed at this body in the past. He stated that they had received feedback from the Wisconsin Historical Society on the proposed ordinance and are working on incorporating it. The proposed ordinance will have to go to the Joint Review Board, as well as City Council, and staff will keep the Committee updated.

d) Updates on Waterfront Code updates

The City received a proposal from Graef for updating the ordinances & zoning, which is partly funded by a Wisconsin Coastal Management grant. Staff will be hosting a work session with the consultants at some point, and will be keeping Committee members updated as it gets started.

4) Announcements

Kate Ullman mentioned that Eagle Waste has changed their recycling requirements, but hasn’t communicated this to either the City or consumers. She asked if it was possible to renegotiate prices for recycling pickup, as there are fewer items that can now be recycled. She recommended that more outreach be done to inform people of this change.

Lissa Radke asked if the city’s contract with Eagle Waste requires outreach when such changes are made, and recommended that there be outreach especially to businesses who are large generators of waste and recycling. She asked if there was any sort of

annual reporting mandated to help hold Eagle Waste accountable. Staff will follow up with Administration to see if there is a possibility of requiring Eagle Waste to conduct outreach regarding this policy change.

5) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Kate Ullman. Passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm. Minutes done by Lucas Phillips.