

City of Ashland- Sustainability Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 24, 2022

6:05 Call to order

Present: Axel Peterman, Adam Zais, Lissa Radke, Kate Ullman, Amy Amman
Absent: Dale Kupczyk (excused), Cheyanne Reeves, Tamara Sylte

1) Approval of Agenda - *Approved by Unanimous Consent*

2) Consent Agenda - *Approved by Unanimous Consent*

a) [Approval of minutes](#) from the January 27th 2022 Sustainability Committee meeting

3) Citizen Comments - *None*

4) Projects/Discussions

a) Sustainability specific [Communications Template](#)

Reviewed and made final edits. Will be used flexibly as a tool, does not require a vote to approve.

b) Updates and Questions on City Plans and Initiatives with Megan McBride

i. Strategic plan

Link to 25x25 Includes fleet replacement/fuel efficient vehicles (police chief Bill Hagstrom enterprise fleet management) , electrify fleet. Solar installation, facilities improvements

Climate Resilience Goal (parks and planning)

Elimination of Overflows Goal

Fewer Beach Closures Goal

ii. 25x25 plan

Updated in 2018 by Northland CRC. XCEL reports that currently at 3% of current energy use is renewables (recent improvements to hvac, water pumps, LED, solar garden). Need to evaluate fleet contribution.

*** Communications Outreach opportunities related to energy efficiency improvements.*

iii. Energy Action Plan

Two parts

25x25- City facilities improvements in strategic plan, Public Works will be lead on this. Energy Audits, evaluate new solar installations on buildings. XCEL and solar installers for solar site assessments on buildings and open fields (near utility building) for ground mounted solar.

Community scope and outreach- energy efficiency. Free technical assistance from partners in energy/xcel. Sara Hudson is lead. Support for information and outreach.

iv. Rain Barrel Sale

Cameron- Internship project working on where to source rain barrels, community partners? Planned for sale towards the end of May.

v. No Mow May

Cameron: New Initiative- Develop program that city takes the lead on, and citizens can participate . Has quotes from Heart Graphics. Would like to work with larger stakeholders/institutions. (limited interest/response) A long way to go to get community support for this- concern about aesthetics. Need to communicate about ecological benefits. Signage important.

Amy- could we use some existing resources that already exist? (xerxes society)

Cameron has a draft sign that he modeled on a city in Montana.

Lissa, one or two months of notices in the water bill to preview. Concern that there is a lot of community pushback, judging by her neighbors.

Need to get Cameron's sign design and any other related resources he created.

Amy- should include other related information about pollinator friendly practices- don't rake your leaves...

Need resolution to suspend mowing ordinance for May. Model on Verona's resolution. Committee should approve and forward to council.

Editorials and letters to the editor to share info about benefit of now mow may

What is cutoff for a flier in water bill? update, black and white fliers need to be submitted by the 13th of the billing month February, April, June, August, October, December.

Sara- Parks Committee coordination

vi. EV Charging Station

Money is in the budget- PW department will work on installing an EV charging station in the spring/summer in the parking lot across from city hall. Level 2 charging station. There is already a charging station at the BART building which is LEVEL 3.

*** Need to communicate about Level 3 at BART and LEVEL 2 downtown.*

c) Review [Questions and Action Items](#) from 1/27 - postponed

d) Coal Tar phytoremediation with native plantings (Axel and Sara)

Axel- use of plants to neutralize toxic chemicals and heavy metals. Native prairie grasses for remediation of coal tar. Will discuss when Sara is present.

5) Announcements/Reports/Comments/Questions

none

6) Adjournment - - *Approved by Unanimous Consent*

It is possible that members of and a possible quorum of members of other governmental bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above stated meeting to gather information or speak about a subject, over which they have decision-making responsibility. Any governmental body at the above stated meeting will take no action other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice.

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