

City of Ashland - Sustainability Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 17, 2022

6:00pm - 7:00pm HYBRID MEETING: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Energy Action Plan, 25x25 Plan, Sourcewater Protection Plan linked here:

<https://sites.google.com/view/ashland-sustainability/themes>

Present: **Adam Zais, Dale Kupczyk, Axel Peterman, Laura Graf, Amy Amman**

Absent: **Kate Ullman, Lissa Radke, Zach Jurciwiz**

Agenda

- 1) Approval of Agenda *unanimous consent*
- 2) Approval of minutes from the [October meeting](#) *unanimous consent*
- 3) Citizen Comments
- 4) Projects/Discussions
 - a) Waste and Recycling
 - i. Outreach to business owners about paper purchasing
In addition to encouraging purchase of post-consumer-content paper, may want to focus on encouraging reduction of overall paper usage (smart usage) by local businesses.
 - ii. Other
*Should reach out again again to Mayor about flier in water bill
One-time newsletter from City about regional recycling sites? (Extension has a newsletter like this.)

Can the City look for grant funding for battery recycling sites?*
 - b) Habitats and Restoration
 - i. Chapple Ave street lamps
Street lights on Chapple Avenue look okay, but very highly-polluting lights in the parking lot across Main Street from City Hall.

ii. Other

Brought to the Committee's attention that some residents feel that the downtown area would be safer at night if it were lit more brightly. (The notion that brighter lighting alone makes an area significantly safer may be a misconception.)

Could keep list of inefficient lights in Ashland. Color of light is important. (Warmer lights are more environmentally friendly.)

c) Water

i. Develop Sourcewater Protection Plan initial recommendations

d) Food

i. Community Garden update

Sewer main underneath Beaser Garden was lined without incident. The Garden is now seeking funding for expansion in 2023.

ii. Ashland-Area Farmers Market

Ashland-Area Farmers Market vendors voted in November for the Market to become a City entity in 2023.

iii. Other

Would like to try to incorporate more edible fruit trees into City landscaping. (City hesitant because of lack of an existing plan for maintenance and harvest of fruit trees.)

Any fruit trees planted now are not likely to produce in significant quantity for 5-7 years. Now is the time to plant fruit trees in anticipation of the establishment of a plan to harvest and distribute fruit to residents.

e) Climate Change

i. EV Charging station network strategic plan

ii. 25x25 Plan - progress review, generate recommendations from committee for City Council

City is presently at 20% of goal (thanks largely to solar subscription programs and the police and fire station (present number likely a little higher than this.)

Electrical usage staying flat, indicative of good efficiency.

Natural gas consumption trending downward (credited to warm few years (reduced need for heating in winter), as well as to efficiency increases.)

May want to take steps to increase efficiency before investing in subscription solar.

How efficient are the bulbs being used in streetlights? (Streetlights discussed in 25x25 plan?)

Police station not presently producing energy, installers didn't install the system properly.

City should have stricter standards for construction of new buildings (Should have a person responsible for ensuring that these standards are met.) Existing efficiency standards seemingly being lost in translation during design process.

Might want to hold an event to teach people about installing solar at their home (Adam putting together presentation for Sustainability Committee for December.)

f) Recruitment for Sustainability Committee

g) Annual Report for City Council

5) Future agenda items

More about 25x25 plan

(Would like to have Sara at next meeting)

6) Adjournment

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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