

Minutes
Sustainability & Natural Resources
Committee Meeting
June 13, 2022

Members Present: Mike Flaherty, Ed Wreh, Kitty Brussock (joined at 6:02 PM), Angela Freedman, Judy Taber (joined at 6:03 PM), Darrel Waldera, David Wilson

Members Absent: Bruce Fischer

Staff Present: Kong Thao

Staff Absent: Sayer Larson

1. CALL TO ORDER

Flaherty called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

- a. Wreh motioned to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2022, Sustainability & Natural Resource Committee meeting. Seconded by Freedman. Motion carried 6-0.

4. BUSINESS.

- a. Discussion and possible action to make a recommendation to the Village Board regarding Village participation in the TerraCycle Program, request by Lydia Mikelbank, McFarland Girl Scout Troop 1015.

Flaherty started the discussion by having Mikelbank give their presentation on the background for the TerraCycle Program. Mikelbank's presentation included a three-section board poster and a medium sized box container from the TerraCycle Program. Mikelbank mentioned there are three box sizes with their own pricing based on the collected materials. For the Candy and Snack Wrapper boxes, small boxes cost \$86.00; medium boxes cost \$141.00, and large boxes are \$218.00. The purchase for each box includes its own return packaging. Mikelbank intends to create flyers to further publicize the details about the TerraCycle Program in the Village. The following items can also be included in the box.

- Air packaging
- Bubble wrap
- Cereal bag liners
- Food storage and take out containers
- Palate covers
- Plastic bottles, shipping bags, plastic wrap and shrink wrap

a. Example: Amazon Shipping bag

The Committee followed the presentation with questions concerning the types of materials accepted, comparison of traditional recycling programs to this TerraCycle Program, activity requested by the Village, the existing program in Monona, alternative locations, and partnership with the Lion's Club.

Mikelbank commented additional locations may include the Library and McFarland UCC (United Church of Christ).

Taber commented that the Lion's Club's Recycling Beyond the Bag program in the Municipal Center lobby is very successful. The Lion's Club receives a park bench for every 500 lbs. of plastic collected. They are on their third bench. Additional locations where their recycling program collects are the Village Library and One Community Bank. Collections are completed weekly. Flaherty and Taber proposed a possibility of a partnership on the recycling program.

The Committee discussed the continued efforts by the Village following Mikelbank's graduation and eventual departure. Thao expressed concern over the duration for the program, frequency of collection, and the party responsibility for sending the filled boxes out to TerraCycle.

Wreh motioned to recommend to the Village Board participation in the TerraCycle Program through a pilot process as requested by Lydia Mikelbank, McFarland Girl Scout Troop 1015. Seconded by Freedman. Motion passes 7-0.

b. Discussion and possible recommendation to the Village Board on Resolution 2022-16 to join Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition, WLGCC.

Thao began the discussion by providing background on WLGCC and its existing sources. Thao included information about past action taken by WLGCC related to current events, and current committee members. Thao added that items taken by WLGCC tend to be time sensitive and would require a quick response, however each member community has the option to sign on to any position statement per their community.

Taber commented on the additional resources a group like WLGCC can provide in terms of networking, collaboration, and the potential for more information. Flaherty concurred adding that WLGCC will likely know where funds may be located along with sharing of best practices.

Wreh motioned to recommend to the Village Board approval of Resolution 2022-16 to join the Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition. Seconded by Brussock. Motion passes 7-0.

c. Discussion regarding the Village's Sustainability Plan

Thao led the discussion for the item by asking the Committee about their feedback and guidance on areas of interest relating to the action plan as described in the Sustainability Plan. Freedman commented on the importance to focus on achievable actions that could be met in the near-term such as education on lawn care and native plantings. Flaherty proposed a monthly summary on the activity by the Community & Economic Development Department. Flaherty commented on the proposal of a second community garden and where the Village is at with this. Wreh asked Thao

for clarification concerning which sections of the Sustainability Plan's Action Plan the Committee should be focused on. Thao commented the Committee should be focused on the near-term actions among all six categories in the plan. Thao added that several of those actions are passive and ongoing as completed by their respective departments. Any priority for near-term action requiring funding would be for next year. Feedback on these items could also impact budgeting requests.

Flaherty continued by asked the committee for further feedback identifying action plan items which would require funding. This may include rain barrels, recycling programming, and other educational programs. Freedman commented on the importance of quantifying data to see measurable results. Thao expressed interest in further research regarding electric vehicle infrastructure throughout the Village.

Wreh commented on the activity of the BCycle program and where the Village is at with the project. Thao commented the C&ED has not heard any activity on this project since its approval.

Brussock asked for clarification on the "community EV station" concerned on the rate for residents to charge. Thao commented on the expected development for the Municipal Center into a Community Center with the installation of more energy efficient features. Thao also mentioned that further research needs to be done determining the exact approach the Village should be taking with the charging stations, whether they are free or at a fixed rate. Waldera added to the discussion providing some relative numbers on EV infrastructure. Waldera commented on future locations which might be feasible for EV, such as the Public Works building and other public buildings.

Wilson asked Thao on the deadline for priority of action plans in the Sustainability Plan. Thao stated the deadline for feedback from committee members should be during the week of July 4th. This coincides with when the agenda is being made.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.

- a. Monday, July 11, 2022, at 6:00 PM

6. ADJOURNMENT.

Wreh motioned to adjourn; Brussock seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.