

VILLAGE OF MCFARLAND

Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee Minutes

Monday, November 14, 2022 - 6:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL.

Trustee Flaherty called the regular meeting of the Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee to order at 6:00 PM in the Community Room of the Municipal Center. This meeting was also held via Zoom webinar.

Members present: Michael Flaherty, Edward Wreh, David Wilson, Darrel Waldera, Judy Taber (arrived at 6:05 p.m.), Angela Freedman, Kitty Brussock (arrived at 6:05 p.m.)

Members not present: Bruce Fischer

Staff Present: Sayer Larson, Kong Thao, Phil McDade, parks consultant Blake Theisen

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

- a. *This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee. Please remember this is a virtual meeting conducted through the Zoom online meeting platform. Zoom meeting attendees wishing to address the Committee may do so using the Question and Answer feature within the Zoom online meeting platform. You may state your name, address, and provide your comments to the Committee for their consideration. Members of the public who are present in person and wish to address the Committee should fill out a public comment form and turn into the meeting chairperson. Members of the public may speak during public appearances or during their selected agenda item as they designate on the public comment form. Please adhere to the 3-minute time limit. Additionally, you may send your public comments to sustainability@mcfarland.wi.us to be included as part of the meeting.*

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

- a. *Discussion and action regarding the minutes from the October 10, 2022 Sustainability and Natural Resources meeting.*

Motion by Wreh, second by Freedman, to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2022 Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee. Motion carries 5 - 0 - 0 by acclamation.

4. BUSINESS.

- a. *Discussion regarding implementing a No Mow May or Low Mow May Ordinance.*

The committee discussed the village providing free "No mow May" signs to residents to encourage limited mowing during the spring pollination season. Committee chairman Flaherty said the village board has tentatively approved \$500 for signs for the 2023 budget year. Committee members discussed putting a QR code on the signs so residents can learn more about limited mowing. Committee members also asked whether portions of the village's public park areas can be limited for mowing in the spring. Larson said he would look into limited mowing of some public park spaces, but also said the public has an expectation that park and other public spaces will be mowed for community use. The

committee took no action on the agenda item.

b. Discussion and possible action to submit the Village's Green Tier Annual Report to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

The committee discussed the village's participation in the state Green Tier program, which is designed to share best practices among communities in Wisconsin about sustainability and environmental protection. Motion by Freedman, second by Wreh, to submit the Village's Green Tier Annual Report to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Motion carries 7 - 0 - 0 by acclamation.

c. Update and discussion regarding Lewis Park lake access plan

Theisen discussed with the committee the plans for providing canoe and kayak access to Lower Mud Lake from Lewis Park. The recommended site would be near the circular drop-off driveway at the Lewis Park shelter, with a boardwalk built across wetlands and a docking station for canoes and kayaks. The proposal would also include construction of a small path to the boardwalk from the existing walking path at the park. The proposal would cost approximately \$210,000, with an option for an additional \$46,000 to complete a walking path around the circumference of the park. The committee did not take action on this agenda item.

d. Discussion and action to make a recommendation to the Village Board regarding design and bidding services for McDaniel Park site improvements.

The committee discussed improvements to the beach area of McDaniel Park, a joint project with Dane County to provide a sandy beach and enclosed wading area in Lake Waubesa. The village's estimated share of the project cost would be \$250,000. Motion by Wreh, second by Waldera, to make a recommendation to the Village Board regarding design and bidding services for McDaniel Park site improvements. Motion carries 7 - 0 - 0 by acclamation.

e. Discussion on WLGCC Summit and League of Municipalities

Committee chair Flaherty discussed recent attendance at the Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition summit held in Milwaukee, and the League of Municipalities annual conference in LaCrosse. Discussions at the conferences included energy savings, transportation, grant funding and utilities.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.

a. Monday, December 12, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion by Wreh, second by Brussock, to adjourn at 7:12 p.m. Motion carries 7 - 0 - 0 by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted by,
Phil McDade
Utility Clerk