

VILLAGE OF MCFARLAND

Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee Minutes

Monday, July 8, 2024 - 6:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL.

Trustee Peña 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: Miguel Peña, Alisa Leamy, Michael Allen, Nina Schultz, Judy Taber

Members not present: Angela Freedman

Staff Present: Public Works Director Lee Igl, Parks Superintendent Sayer Larson, Community & Economic Development Director Andrew Bremer, Associate Planner Kong Tho, and Assistant to the Public Works Director Aimee Irwin

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

- a. *This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee for items that are not on the agenda. Please remember this is a hybrid meeting conducted in person and through the Zoom online meeting platform. Meeting attendees wishing to address the Committee about items not on the agenda may do so at this time. Zoom attendees should type their name and address in the Question and Answer feature within the Zoom online meeting platform at this time. 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. When you are called upon to speak, state your name, address, and provide your comments to the Committee for their consideration. 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.*

Members of the public may also speak during their selected agenda item as they designate on the public comment form or in the Question and Answer feature on Zoom.

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

- a. *Motion to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2024 Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee meeting.*

Motion by Trustee Leamy, seconded by Allen, to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2024 Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee meeting. Motion carries 5 - 0 - 0.

4. BUSINESS.

- a. *Discussion and action to make a recommendation to the Village Board regarding the Lewis Park lake access design and authorize the project for bid.*

Blake Thiesen of Parkitecture reviewed the enclosed design for Lewis Park lake access.

- Trustee Leamy asked if any trees would be removed as part of the project.

Larson explained one tree near the water's edge which is in decline and a failed ash tree would be removed.

- Trustee Leamy asked what material would be utilized for the boardwalk. Thiesen stated the boardwalk material would be composite.
- Taber asked if any portion would be removed for the winter months. Larson explained that the darker brown launch would be removed in late fall each year.
- Trustee Leamy asked for the timeline of the work. Thiesen explained installation of the boardwalk would be in October or November of this year. Larson commented that the modular system would be installed in 2025.

Motion by Allen, seconded by Trustee Leamy, to recommend approval to the Village Board regarding the Lewis Park lake access design and authorize the project for bid. Motion carries 5 - 0 - 0.

b. Discussion and action to make a recommendation to the Village Board regarding the Village's Office of Energy Innovation Grant.

Bremer provided background regarding the Office of Energy Innovation grant. These funds were to assist toward the Public Safety Center project of adding batteries and microgrid controls. Following the rejection of bids, staff have been discussing three options for the grant funds.

- Allen asked if the grant funds would be sufficient to cover the geothermal at the Community Center project. Alexander Harris of HGA stated the estimate made in the fall for the geothermal size is accurate but will not be able to confirm it until the test core has been completed.
- Taber asked what would happen if the Public Safety Center did not have the battery back-up. Bremer explained there is a generator back-up.
- Trustee Leamy asked if option two was selected, what the batteries could do for the Public Safety Center, without the microgrid. Bremer explained that the batteries would be able to assist short-term with an outage. Harris explained the battery helps to improve the economics of the building.
- Schultz asked if the geothermal system was sized for the Community Center and Library. Bremer stated it is sized for the Community Center. Harris added that the Library could be added in the future.
- Trustee Leamy asked what would happen to the funds if the grant funds were moved to the Community Center, but the Village Board changed the project. Bremer stated that changes to the Community Center project are yet to be determined, and the funds could probably be utilized for another project.
- Trustee Peña asked when the deadline would be to make a decision about the grant funds. Bremer explained that the grant funds have been extended to the end of the year, and it may require an additional extension.
- Trustee Peña asked if the microgrid controls could be added later at the Public Safety Center. Bremer stated the controls could be added later.

Motion by Trustee Peña, seconded by Trustee Leamy, to recommend to the Village Board submittal of a grant amendment request to the Office of Energy Innovation to

revise the project scope to either a grid connected battery system or the transfer of funding to the Community Center for a geothermal renewable energy system with the preference being to transfer funding. Motion carries 5 - 0 - 0.

c. Discussion on No Mow May 2024.

Thao provided a comparison of No Mow May activities between 2023 and 2024.

d. Discussion on Dane County Food Waste update.

Thao provided an update regarding the Dane County Food Waste program which aims to divert food waste from landfills and develop food waste collection programs for its new organics recycling facility.

- Trustee Leamy asked where the drop site would be located and the long term goal of the program. Thao stated the drop site is planned to be at the Public Works building where residents will drop their materials and Dane County will collect for one to two years. Igl added that residents will need to bring materials in their own bin.

e. Discussion regarding updates to the Village's Comprehensive Outdoor and Recreational Plan including qualitative, quantitative, and locational analysis.

Thao provided an overview of the survey results, focusing on questions targeted towards sustainability and natural resources. Thao also reviewed the timeline for continued work on the updates to the Comprehensive Outdoor and Recreational Plan.

- Trustee Peña asked if the conservancy acres were removed, would the Village be meeting the guidelines for acres per resident. Bremer stated that the village would meet the guidelines.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.

a. Monday, August 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion by Trustee Peña, seconded by Trustee Leamy, to adjourn at 7:09 pm

Pursuant to law, written notice of this meeting was given to the public and posted on the public bulletin board in accordance with Open Meetings Law.

Respectfully submitted,
Aimee Irwin
Assistant to the Public Works Director