

Minutes
Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee Meeting
March 10, 2025

Committee Members Present: Miguel Pena, Alisa Leamy, Lori Whitman, Nina Schultz, Michael Allen

Committee Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Andrew Bremer, Community and Economic Development Director; Lee Igl, Public Works Director; Sayer Larson, Parks Superintendent; Kong Thao, Associate Planner; Phil McDade, Utility Clerk.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chairman Miguel Pena called the joint meeting to order at 6 p.m.

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

No public appearances.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2024, Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee meeting.

Motion by Schultz, second by Allen, to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2024, Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

b. Motion to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2025, joint meeting of the Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee and Village Board.

Motion by Schultz, seconded by Allen, to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2025, joint meeting of the Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee and Village Board, with a friendly amendment by Allen to correct the spelling of trustee Pena's first name. Motion carried 5-0.

4. BUSINESS

a. Presentation of forestry operations for 2024 and outlook for 2025.

Larson highlighted the village's forestry operations for 2024, including: 82 trees planted throughout the village; an estimated 600 trees trimmed; and donations of wood to the McFarland School District from trees cut down during the Exchange Street renovation projects. The village plans to continue tree planting and trimming efforts in 2025 and will contract for work to trim large cottonwood trees in McDaniel Park.

b. Discussion on the Commissioning Report of the Village's Public Safety Center presented by HGA.

Alexander Harris of HGA presented information on energy savings and efficiency at the Public Safety Center, which opened in August 2023. The building was designed to lower energy costs through solar panels, geo-thermal heating and air conditioning systems, and other energy-saving technologies. The building's energy usage compares favorably with other buildings in the Madison area constructed with energy efficiency targets.

c. Discussion and action to submit the Village of McFarland's 2024 Green Tier Annual Report to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Thao reviewed the village's work in joining the Green Tier Legacy Communities network. This would be the fourth Green Tier Annual Report the village will file with the Department of Natural Resources, which organized the network. The network focuses on encouraging communities to work on energy conservation, water quality and conservation, solid waste reduction, and community wellness activities. Leamy motioned, Schultz seconded, to approve submittal of the Village of McFarland's 2024 Green Tier Annual Report to the Wisconsin Department of Public Resources. Motion carried 5-0.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.

- a. Monday, April 14, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

Leamy motioned to adjourn; Whitman seconded. Motion carried by unanimous consent. Meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.