

**Minutes
Sustainability & Natural Resources
Committee Meeting
December 9, 2024**

Members Present: Michael Allen, Angela Freedman, Nina Schultz, Lori Whitman

Members Absent: Miguel Pena, Alisa Leamy, Judy Taber

Staff Present: Lee Igl, Public Works Director; Sayer Larson, Parks Superintendent; Kong Thao, Associate Planner; Phil McDade, utility clerk.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Carolyn Clow, village board president sitting in on the meeting, called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

No public appearances.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

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

Freedman motioned, Allen seconded, to approve the September 9, 2024 minutes of the Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee. Motion approved 4-0.

4. BUSINESS.

a. **Discussion regarding 2024 street and park tree planting.**

Larson discussed the village tree planting program for 2024. A total of 85 trees were planted in the village in 2024, with 62 of those planted in the Exchange Street corridor. Exchange Street was rebuilt and expanded in 2024, and approximately 30 trees were removed in the spring and summer as part of the project. Larson reviewed with the committee the challenge of planting trees in the terrace of Exchange Street, as underground utility lines often interfere with planting locations.

b. **Discussion on OEI EIGP Grant update.**

Thao updated the committee on a grant amendment request to the Wisconsin Office of Energy Innovation regarding a micro-grid/battery system at the Public Safety Center. The village has asked the OEI to allow the grant funding to be transferred for use at the planned expanded municipal community center in McFarland. Thao said the OEI is reviewing the amendment request and will likely provide a response to the village within a few months.

c. Discussion regarding the update Village's Comprehensive Outdoor and Recreational Plan.

Thao reviewed the draft plan of the village's CORP, with plans to conduct a public information meeting on it in January 2025. The plan will also be reviewed by the village's Parks & Recreation Committee in February, with possible review and adoption by the Village Board in late February or early March.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE

- a. Monday, January 13, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

Freedman motioned to adjourn; Schultz seconded. Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil McDade, utility clerk