



AGENDA OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2021, 5:00 PM
Virtual Meeting. Public may join via Zoom.

A. Zoom Meeting Information.

- I. This item contains documents which provide call in information and instructions for the Zoom meeting.

B. Roll Call.

- I. Chair--Seth Hoffmeister; Vice Chair--Ned Dorff; Alder Randy Scannell; Kaurie Mihm--PRF; Prof. John Arendt; Julia Noordyk; Cody Sandahl; Mark Walter; Stephanie King

C. Approval of the Agenda.

- I. Approval of the agenda for February 17, 2021.

D. Approval of Minutes.

- I. Approval of the minutes from January 20, 2021.

E. Regular Business.

F. Informational.

- I. Member &/or sub-committee updates
2. Resiliency Coordinator updates.

G. Adjournment.

- 1) THIS MEETING IS RECORDED: THE VIDEO OF THIS MEETING AND MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT www.greenbaywi.gov

- 2) ACCESSIBILITY: Any person wishing to attend who requires special accommodation because of a disability, should contact the City Safety Manager at 920-448-3125 at least 48 hours before the scheduled meeting time so that arrangements can be made.
- 3) QUORUM: Please take notice that a majority or quorum of the Common Council will attend this Sustainability Commission meeting and will constitute a meeting of the Common Council for purposes of discussion and information gathering relative to this agenda.
- 4) REPRESENTATION: The party requesting the communication, or their representative, should be present at this meeting.

VERBATIM MINUTES

- I haven't seen for this long in. I don't remember when.
- [Melissa] So we have Seth and Cody are both excused this evening, and it looks like everyone is here. Randy's not though. And we may have a guest
- And okay. Yeah.
- [Melissa] And Stephanie is not here.
- Stephanie. Okay.
- I was gonna say Stephanie King.
- [Melissa] She's not here.
- Well, we do have five, so we can move ahead.
- I hear a cat.
- You know, that was a kid.
- There's a lot of kid noise, cat noise dog noise at my house. Yeah . A lot of everything. Our cats are definitely trying to establish dominance over the puppy right now. So they've been a little noisy.
- [Melissa] So Ned you're in charge tonight, right?
- That's what's Seth tells me . Yeah. So should we call the meeting to order. It is five o'clock. I will call this meeting of the sustainability commission to order. We'll do roll call first. Seth is excused. Randy, Sandal, absent. Kaurie Mihm.
- Present.
- John Arendt. Julia Noordyk.
- Present.
- Cody sandal is excused.
- Mark Walter.

- Present.
- And Stephanie King is absent. Okay. And then just let me know when you're ready for the next one, Melissa.
- [Melissa] Okay. Just a second.
- Yeah. I don't think I'm signed in. Are we all signed in present and voting.
- [Melissa] For in...
- Sign me on, yeah.
- [Melissa] I have for signed in in civic clerk, everyone that we just went through for the roll call and then for joined meeting. Civic clerk, Ned, Julia, Mark, and John. Everyone else is seen as waiting. Kaurie did you join through civic clerk?
- When I joined though, it's like not quite five to five. The joint meeting wasn't there. It wasn't active.
- I have that too.
- Yeah. You may have to go back out and try it again.
- Yeah. Saying I might want to just go out and in again.
- Just go back to the agenda page.
- Yeah go back to agendas. It should be popping open.
- Yeah, I see. Yep.
- That's what happened to me too. I literally just, it was like, "Oh yeah."
- Okay. I think you guys see me now.
- [Melissa] All right. I'm ready if you all are.
- Fantastic. We'll go to item C approval of the agenda. Is there a motion to approve the agenda for tonight? John moves the motion.
- I'll second.
- Seconded by Julia. Is there any discussion? Hearing none. All in favor?
- [All] Aye.
- Any opposed? Motion carries.

- [Melissa] Can you tell me again, who initiated the motion to approve.
- John and Julia.
- [Melissa] Okay. Okay. Ready?
- Moving on to item D approval of the minutes from January 20th, 2021. Is there a motion to approve?
- I'll move.
- Moved by Mark.
- I'll second.
- Second by Kaurie. Any discussion? Hearing none. All in favor?
- [All] Aye.
- Any opposed? Motion carries.
- [Melissa] All right. Ready?
- All right. Item irregular business. There is none. So we will move on to item F, informational. And the first item under informational is member or sub committee updates. Would anybody like to share an update from a subcommittee or project you are working on?
- [Melissa] Josh.
- I'll share that. I will share that, Julia and I met to discuss some of the tree cover issues with the carbon calculator with the city. Her group had a few questions that we forwarded onto the EPA. They gave us their best answer, and information.
- Thank you. Anything Julia, you would like to add to that?
- Thanks, John, for reaching out to them. That was a good, easy resolution. What their answer was back. It's an easy answer. Always. Good. And then I guess I'll just add or yeah, I think we're next. Whenever we're ready.
- The chair recognizes Julia.
- The only thing I was going to mention is that it's been on my mind to see if there is the deadline is a grant opportunity that comes up every April. I think the deadlines around the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, it's for stormwater planning grant. And I have in the past worked with other municipalities to get some funding. So it could be a good opportunity to do propose something around green infrastructure planning wise and the storm. So I just throw that out there. Melissa, I can send you the information and if you wanna have a conversation about it, that would be great.

- Yeah. I don't know if it's the same grant opportunity, but Ben Benninghoff from the DNR reached out to me and offered to put me in touch with someone else, a grants coordinator from the DNR. And I think it may have something to do with the stormwater grants that you're talking about. And I graciously accepted the contract.
- Okay great.
- Is it the same? If it is the same grant opportunity. I haven't met with that person yet.
- I have a feeling it is. Because the last time I also talked to Ben that I had asked him, I said, "What would be a good thing to maybe do for this?" I'm glad that he is putting you in touch. I'll still just send a follow-up email with .
- Yeah that would be great.
- Work his ideas. And then the grant is due at the end of April normally, they take a long time to review it. And normally it would start if it's awarded, it would start in like January 1st, 2022.
- So is it usually a one-year grant timeframe?
- Yeah. And yeah. I think I've heard it's an under utilized grant. And then also a lot of the applications they get are really like straightforward, like say E-business as usual stormwater things that, so I think if we put a green infrastructure spin on it that it could be competitive.
- And this is a planning style grant versus an implementation.
- They do have those also, but those are probably more competitive. And I don't know if they're offered every year. When I send you the link, it will be the same. You could see which ones which basically, so.
- Okay.
- But this is for planning and that's probably why it's under utilized. I don't know. I don't know. So, I think it's a good opportunity. I've had success with it with another community, so.
- Okay.
- I just like to say in perks, we're always planning for stormwater management and I would be happy to throw some project ideas out there. And I think it would be probably great for us to be able to utilize some of that funding too. So I'd be happy to participate in any discussions for that.
- Great. Good, good, good. Always looking for collaboration. So John, did you wanna talk about the meeting that you and Seth and I had, and some of the items that came out of that subgroup. Otherwise I can just . I can just offer like the items that I was working on.
- Sure. I can just give a brief rundown of some of the items. And if you wanna elaborate on them during your update, you can. Some of the things that we were looking at is updating the number of

properties in the energy star portfolio, the city properties, buildings in particular, and I was able to reach out and share what I had come up with with Jenny. And we'll need to see what we want to add to that portfolio manager, benchmark of buildings is important as we move forward to sort of measure our progress, and towards reducing our carbon footprint. We talked about trying to identify the different departments in the city, and see what efficiency projects they've identified. So we can create sort of a grand list of efficiency projects, possibly working with focus on energy and WPS to help us along on this journey. Melissa brought up possibly working with Johnson controls, who have experience in auditing efficiency projects and also identifying climate action plans from other communities. Seeing if we can get a list of plans, and then see if we can come up with best practices in working towards the climate action plan, and also exploring some solar and efficiency projects looking at new sources out there.

- It was a good recap. And NWTC has offered to do some of that data entry that they were doing last year for the energy star portfolio manager. So they're on board with that as training tool for their students. And so I think the ball's in my court at this point as far as additional buildings to review. Were there other member updates? I'll reserve my time for when it's my time to give just general resiliency coordinator updates.

- I guess I would just ask Ned, if you had seen the draft points of the governor's budget, where he was including electrical vehicle charging grants as part of the budget, I just had the wheeler report synopsis of the budget come in this morning. And I noted that that was something on there. Who knows how far that will get? But that may be an opportunity for the future for re-establish an electric vehicle charging station grant program funded at \$10 million. So that may be a real opportunity to follow along on.

- I haven't seen it, but thanks for bringing that up, that was definitely something we had put on maybe the back burner for the light park project or possibly somewhere else at this point. So thanks for bringing that up.

- Sure. I will forward you the email I got from came from the executive. But it has a synopsis from the Wheeler report on what the budget included.

- I also heard it includes several things for resiliency.

- Yep. Yeah, actually I can... Tell you what I will send this to Melissa, and then you can disseminate it out to the committee because that way there. It's really nice synopsis. It's all bullet points of what was included in the governor's budget, broken down by area. So DNR conservation is in one. Infrastructure is in one. Various areas workforce, health and human services, higher education, K-12 and so forth. So it's actually pretty handy. Easy to go through again, though. It's the governor's budget which given current politics is gonna get torn apart, and then re put together in some other fashion.

- Thank you, John. Kaurie, did you have anything you wanted to share?

- Yeah. I know there's been talk with the forestry department in looking at developing urban tree canopy cover policy. I guess I'm not certain whether that would be city wide or just within the parks or forestry Rome, but we are starting to look at other communities to see kind of we're looking to put out a survey to other communities to see if they have a policy. If so, can they share it with us? How many foresters do they have on staff? How many trees do they take care of? That kind of thing

to help us kind of put that policy together. So it's still in the very initial planning stages, but we're starting. So yeah, that's all I really have.

- Thank you. I do note Stephanie King is present.

- I put, yep. Stephanie, I marked you as present. I'm sorry if you're... I don't know how long you were waiting, but thank you, Julia for letting me. Sometimes I get so tuned into what's going on that I don't even see the waiting room going on. But you're here. Thank you for being here.

- Yup. Hi everyone. Sorry. I had a little trouble finding the link civic cleric, but I'm here. Yep. No problem. I wasn't waiting long.

- I'm glad you're here. Thank you. Any other updates for members? Otherwise I'll share. I had a couple of meetings with Melissa on the same day, back in January. One of them was that energy, clean energy working group meeting. I did contact the state treasurer still waiting to hear back from that office. It's been a few weeks, but I know they're pretty understaffed. And before that, Melissa and I had been meeting with Ben Benninghoff on some green infrastructure for schools and city parks, looking to see where we could share a project or two or three or four around the city where a school connects to a city park, and where some green infrastructure might do some good for that particular spot. So I've met with the person who's going to be a representative from the district and she's on board. She's our district grant writer. She's looking forward to kind of teaming up and seeing what we can do together. So, and then as a follow-up from our item on the noxious weed ordinance and natural landscaping ordinance. I attended the INS committee meeting and shared perspectives from our commission, shared my own opinions on some of our issues that we had with setbacks and sizing and things like that. And the committee INS is taking it under consideration. I believe Steve Grenier and Melissa are gonna, I think Melissa and Steve Grenier are gonna do some more work on that. Okay. So I talked with Steve on the phone, I think a couple of days ago and decided that I'm gonna kind of seek some other feedback from people that have been involved with the pollinator corridor project over the years, and get some of those comments to him and Melissa contention. So I think those are my updates.

- Okay. Are you going to talk about that or is it okay.

- There's also the water. There's also the water one. I forgot to mention. Thank you. The water resolution. So thank you to Julia and Mark for some help with crafting and kind of revising reading over, Kaurie sent some good things to include as well. And so that's been drafted and sent to Melissa, and then Melissa sent that on to the legal team. So, you know, I'm not sure how far they are along in looking at it, but that's where things are right now. I don't know if Melissa knows any more about how far the yes. Okay, cool. So maybe during your update to let us know, although I feel like I should ask, we do have a member of the public did you want to comment on any of this information stuff?

- [Tina] Are you talking to me?

- I am.

- [Tina] No, I'm just here to listen.

- Okay. Well, it's good to see you friend.

- And I will be leaving soon for a different zoom meeting . So I'll just say no.
- All right. Thanks Tina.
- Hi Tina. So just wanted to make sure that if we needed to open the floor, we can do that. All right. If there are no more updates from members or subcommittees, we can move on to the resiliency coordinator updates.
- Okay. I am just clicking along on civic clerk. Okay. So I have a few and Ned, you did a really great job of talking about the noxious weeds. The only thing that I will add is, so you're correct, Steve and I are gonna take a look at it again and create an unmarked up version. So a clean version for the next INS meeting, between the last meeting, they have a couple of weeks to look over all the comments you were there at that meeting share, you know share the consensus comments of sustainability commission as well. So we'll present a clean version. And then I don't know if they'll vote on anything that night, but I'm sure there'll be further discussion. And we did have some decent discussion. We didn't get too deep into the weeds, no joke. But we didn't do that.
- You're taking Andie's place. You're taking Andie's place .
- I didn't mean to do that. So anyway, we didn't get too far into the details but there was some nice discussion. And so they'll be presented with a clean version at the next INS meeting, which is the 24th. And Steve and I are meeting on that tomorrow to get that version or not version, but to get that in order. So that's the progress on that right now. The other updates, I did prepare statements, but in the process of the meeting there's more that are coming into my mind, but the update for the solar project at fire station, number five. And I think I talked about this during the last meeting. So the proposed size is going to be 19.2 KW, parallel roof mounted panels on station number five, we did a walkthrough last week at the station and just kind of talked about logistics and details and things like that. Most of the panels will probably be on the East facing side of the roof. And then with the remainder on the West, they didn't think structurally there was going to be any issues at all. The fire station's totally on board. And then the public interface piece with a web-based for the output, there'll be a web link for that. And we haven't done that at like park yet as far as putting that on the city's website or anything. But I think it would be really nice to be able to put the links for both like park and fire station number five together in more of a public area of the website, so that it's easily found. And the target date for installation will be by the end of March. So fairly quick. And as an outcome of the last meeting, the tree canopy bowl discussion was referred to staff. And Kaurie, I know you spoke about it. I also sent an email to Matt, Heck and Libel. Mark and Brian and Dan from parks just to sort of formalize that approval. And I talked with the mayor about it again today during our check-in. And he just, you know he gave me even a little bit more background to how that whole tree canopy discussion came about. And I know that it was something he had talked to the sustainability commission about, but his intent and I pass this information along to the group was that that eventually gets folded in that a tree canopy goal would eventually be folded into the city's revision of the comprehensive plan. So rather having it be just a standalone policy, that it's actually put into the revision of the plan. So I don't know what form that's gonna look like at this point, but the staff that I sent the email to for the referral did ask for a little bit more background. So that's what I provided.

- Can I ask a question? That's really exciting to include it in the comp plan. And then thinking about a little bit better to be able to provide maybe potentially... Do you know when the comp plan is happening? 'Cause I know it's been put that. That's like

- There's a reason that they hired a new director now. So I know it's probably... I don't know when their goal is. I really can't speak to that of when they would like to have that done, but you know, there's things as far as resiliency that I'd like to see in it as well. I can't say when they're really gonna get going on it, or what their timeline is at this point.

- So we probably have some time, it's not to develop the data to like the baseline and stuff and some more.

- And that's why I asked for that.

- Just in general, I just hope you know, like you said, there's other sustainability and resilience type is the stuff that it's just such a great opportunity to include in a comp plan. And so just being aware that we don't wanna miss it. And so how do we with intention, like are able to to provide good input and integrate into it meaningfully?

- So I believe that current plan is dated like 3rd, 2022. So I believe they'll probably, you know get to work some more. So I think any input you might wanna have probably reaching her.

- That to me, it's like the people going through the comp plan process should be reaching out to us. And how are they planning on folding in these comp these things. I think that's what... More than like me trying to hunt someone down or.

- They're definitely planning to do public outreach. I believe at least the last when I spoke with the people in the planning department. So I think there's definitely gonna be opportunities for input.

- Can we as a sustainability commission actually direct them to involve us or resolution saying they should we should be in resiliency and sustainability should be part of the comprehensive plan. You know what I mean? So that there's actually a a formal motion in place, so that we can't be ignored .

- I don't think that's gonna be the case. I mean, just yesterday, one of the planners reached out to me and she said, "We wanna put resiliency into a code form," you know, some sort of code regarding resiliency. And so I don't know if you can make a... If the sustainability can do that. But I guess I'm feeling pretty confident that there's lots of staff people that, that are concerned about this, and that would like to see these sorts of things folded in and be a part of the comprehensive plan. Kaurie, maybe I'm speaking out of turn but that's the impression I'm getting.

- I would agree with you. I think the planning department is aware definitely of some of these goals, and we can always plant the seed and you know, see where it goes from there. So yeah, I definitely think they wanna consider all opportunities such as these as they move forward.

- Okay. Well, so as far as any other updates on the tree canopy goal discussion, that was pretty much all I had on that. And then the other item I wanted to mention was that FEMA is hosting two flood risk open house events next week, February 22nd and 24th. They're gonna be held in the evenings from 4:00 to 7:00, they're virtual open houses. And it's an opportunity for members of the public to

review the preliminary flood maps of the Lake Michigan shoreline, with the changes and how those map may affect communities and the property owners in those areas. So, you know, if you're interested in attending that would be wonderful, if you have people in your neighborhoods, depending on where you live, people that you know, that are in the coastal areas, please pass this information along. It's on the city's website and under the community and economic development area of the website with zoom link information, and our neighborhood Will Peters. I'm not sure exactly what his title is. He's also promoting this to the neighborhood associations in these areas as well.

- I'm curious, Julia, is that something that you are attending or planning on attending or you already know about?

- I am not planning on attending . But it's a drop-in. And every once in awhile, the maps get revised and updated. What is special about this one is that it's been like almost probably at least five years study by the US army Corps of engineers. That's been looking at the coastal zone and a wave run up, which is basically how water comes and hits the shore, and whether that causes flooding . And so they have new updated in map, a more accurate picture of what that looks like along our coasts. So it could have implications for coastal property owners, who may all of a sudden be in a flood zone where they weren't before, or a lot of Brown County though on the coast is less property is in this new designated flood area. So that's kind of like what that's about basically.

- Thank you.

- I don't know. I know it's a lot about the coastal zone specifically. They didn't really say whether it was East river and just all the Brown County Flood Plains that are being updated.

- Yeah. I think today in that meeting, someone asked that question. Julia and I were in a East river resiliency meeting today. And so those meetings it's primarily the coastal areas and to a lesser degree, the East river areas. So I would say the people, you know, people that live along the Bay, any of those neighborhoods, businesses, any you know, any of those impacted areas, that's the primary target audience is my impression for these workshop or the open houses. And they go from 4:00 to 7:00. So, you know, no one has to hang out for three hours.

- It's a drop-in. Yup.

- I felt like there was something else. I didn't have it written down, but I felt like there was something else that you guys wanted me to give you an update on based on the member updates from earlier now, it's escaping me. If I don't write it in a bullet point.

- It's the water resolution.

- Oh, the water resolution. So the water resolution, I sent it to the law office there're just getting it formatted into the proper format and it will be put on the March 2nd common council agenda.

- Great. Thank you for working on that behind the scenes, Melissa. Thanks for not letting us forget about it twice, Julia.

- I'm trying to think if there's anything else John. I did get a hold of those reports. I found where those old energy efficiency wishlist reports. I requested those. So I do have those in my possession out to review those. And I don't think there'll be any problem getting focused on energy involved. I had a meeting with the focus on energy advisor that's assigned to government today. So he's very much in tune with working with the city and we're working on a different project for the KI convention center, because the redevelopment authority through the city is involved with that. And so there'll be looking at everything being specked out to energy star and DLC specifications, for all the lighting updates at the KI center. The only other update, and this is more to do with clean energy is the group that I'm involved with. The climate coalition of the different municipalities were formatting a letter to the PSC, if you follow anything with with clean energy and how cities are trying to finance some of their clean energy objectives, city of Milwaukee wanted to do... It was seven different projects on their buildings, rooftop, solar and their interconnection agreement was denied based on the third-party financing. And it was challenged by the utility, which is We Energies and WPS. And so it was challenged and denied. And they're in court right now. But as a coalition, we're forming a letter to support the city of Milwaukee in their lawsuit. And the reason why this is important for the city of Green Bay, because not every utility challenges these interconnection agreements in this way. The reason it's important for Green Bay is that we have the same utility providers that the city of Milwaukee does. And so I discussed this with the mayor, and I'm signing my name as a city employee to that letter. And this is some of the types of policy interactions that I'm getting involved with as far as to forward the momentum for Green Bay with, because two or three years down the road, if we want to do a lot more solar, which I think we do, third party financing is just one way, it doesn't mean it's the perfect solution, but it's a way of financing projects without putting it through going out for bond for it. And it's just the mechanism that anybody can use, cities, residents, businesses. So the argument is that this third party group is acting as a utility, and that's why Webco had an issue with it. So it's really in depth and I'm sure, you know we can talk about it offline if you want to, but I am involved with that stuff as well. So that's all I had.

- Thank you, Melissa. And thanks for being involved in that, that sounds like a really worthy effort. And that would bring us, Oh, the last note would be that if you wanna keep an eye on what happens with Brown County, they are meeting again tonight with the County board. Last month, the clean energy resolution was sent back to committee. So we'll see what happens tonight . Oh, it might not be on the agenda. My County supervisor just told me it might not be on the agenda. So I thought it was. But keep an eye on it. It's definitely somewhere in the County. Thank you. Anything else before we entertain a motion to adjourn? Would anybody like to make that motion? Mark moves to adjourn. John seconds That was really slow . All right. Any discussion? Okay. All in favor? Aye.

- It seems like too quick a meeting. That was probably why we're all kind of saying like really.

- Yeah, no, I got through, we got through the first like three items by 5:02. So I think we're in our group now.

- We have this incomparable resiliency coordinator. Who's keeping us moving forward and keeping us...

- No, I thought you were just being kind to me and moving very slow, so that I could keep up in civic clerk.

- No, I think you have the technology down now. I think it's all coming together. And the fact that we had no new business tonight probably helped too .
- Thanks Melissa, for all your insights too. 'Cause I mean, honestly, I know nothing about renewable energy, so it's nice to hear your explanations and hear some of the details of what's happening.
- You're welcome.
- No, Melissa, is it your understanding that if the state were financing this project that WPS wouldn't I don't know, I'm just kind of conjecturing here but if we actually did get money from the treasurer's office to finance renewable projects, would treat the state as if it was acting like utility then and sue the state.
- That's a good question. I don't think it would, I don't think it would. But the question comes into play as if they're selling power or if they're selling the equipment, you know if you're financing equipment or if you're financing a purchase power agreement and that's kind of the, you know I'm gonna stop the recording for just a second. 'Cause since we're done with our.