



MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2022, 5:00 PM
Virtual Meeting. Public may join via Zoom.

A. ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION.

I. This item contains Zoom information, instructions, and a link to the Virtual Comment Form.

B. ROLL CALL.

I. Chair- Seth Hoffmeister; Vice Chair-Ned Dorff; Alder Randy Scannell; John Arendt; Stephanie Dodge; Amy Kox; Kaurie Mihm-PRF; Julia Noordyk; Mark Walter.

Present: Seth Hoffmeister, Randy Scannell, Stephanie Dodge, Kaurie Mihm, Amy Kox, Ned Dorff, Julia Noordyk, Excused: Mark Walter, John Arendt

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

I. Approval of the Sustainability Commission meeting agenda for January 19, 2022.

Moved by Ald. Randy Scannell, seconded by Ned Dorff to approve meeting agenda of January 19, 2022.

Motion Passed.

Yes- Randy Scannell, Ned Dorff, Seth Hoffmeister, Julia Noordyk, Kaurie Mihm, Amy Kox, Stephanie Dodge, No- None, Abstain- None.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

I. Approval of minutes from November 17, 2021.

Moved by Ald. Randy Scannell, seconded by Parks Design and Development Kaurie Mihm to approve minutes.

Motion Passed.

Yes- Randy Scannell, Ned Dorff, Seth Hoffmeister, Julia Noordyk, Kaurie Mihm, Amy Kox, Stephanie

Dodge, No- None, Abstain- None.

E. REGULAR BUSINESS.

1. Discussion of 2022 Sustainability Commission Work Plan and possible action to approve work plan.

Moved by Ald. Randy Scannell, seconded by Ned Dorff to hold approval of 2022 Sustainability Commission Work Plan until February 16.

Motion Passed.

Yes- Randy Scannell, Ned Dorff, Seth Hoffmeister, Kaurie Mihm, Amy Kox, Stephanie Dodge, No- None, Abstain- None.

F. INFORMATIONAL.

1. Resiliency Coordinator Update

2. Work Group Updates

3. Other Member Updates

G. ADJOURNMENT.

Moved by Ald. Randy Scannell, seconded by Julia Noordyk to adjourn meeting.

Motion Passed.

Yes- Randy Scannell, Ned Dorff, Seth Hoffmeister, Julia Noordyk, Kaurie Mihm, Amy Kox, Stephanie Dodge, No- None, Abstain- None.

VERBATIM MINUTES

Call the meeting to order. Cool, then we'll call the meeting to order here at 5:03. Item A, Zoom meeting information. That looks like we were successful. Move on to roll call. Chair Seth, I am here. Vice Chair Ned?

- [Ned] Present. Alder Randy?

- Gifted, I mean present.

- Don't fly away on us. John is excused. Stephanie?

- I'm here.

- All right, and Amy?

- Present. And Kaurie?

- Present.

- All right, and Julia?
- Yes.
- And Mark is also excused. Moving on then to approval of the agenda for tonight's meeting. Is there a motion?
- So moved.
- By Randy.
- So moved.
- Seconded by?
- I'll second.
- I'll second.
- Ooh, I think Kaurie got that one, that was close. All those in favor, say aye.
- Aye.
- Aye.
- All those opposed. All right, that is approved. Moving on then to approval from the minutes from November 17th of last year. Is there a motion?
- So moved.
- By Randy. Is there a second?
- I'll second.
- By Stephanie. All right, all those in favor, say aye.
- Aye.
- Aye.
- Aye.
- All right. Those opposed, say nay. All right, and that passes as well. So we'll move on to our one item of regular business tonight. For those of you that were involved in the commission in 2020, I think our very last in-person meeting before the pandemic, which seems like quite a long time ago, we did a similar exercise to begin to talk about some of our goals. So if you're able to pull this up and have it in front of you, that might be a little bit helpful. One moment, there we go. So essentially the

purpose of tonight's meeting is to begin to discuss some of the overarching goals that we have as the commission, and then to start to plot some of the actions we want to take and really consider who is gonna be involved, what work needs to happen, if there are dates for accomplishing certain things, identifying funding sources, additional documents, et cetera. So the purpose is to just make sure that we are having a focus as a commission, that we're all on the same page, that we have a shared mission, a shared direction. We're able to think about our capacity, both as citizen volunteers, and both to help council, the mayor, Melissa, and other city staff manage some of the priorities. And then I guess beyond that, we know, and I know in my experience, we can write the best plan and have the best goals but there's always gonna be new opportunities, new suggestions from council, from citizens, that we might want to consider. So below kind of this grid matrix here is going to be some criteria for how we can consider taking on new issues outside of this initial planning meeting. So I guess how I envision tonight's discussion going, I want to walk through, I guess, category by category and think about, spend really the bulk of the time focusing on what our goals should be for each category. I think this first bit here, some of the ongoing work on clean energy that John, Melissa, and Ned, and myself have been working on is a good example for how to think about this matrix, this goals matrix. We have said, I think from our first meeting three and a half years ago, we have been working towards 100% clean energy by 2050, both for the city and as the community at large. And that is both an ambitious broad goal, but it's also specific and measurable. So this is kind of how we should be thinking of defining the goals for the further categories, and also perhaps we want to rephrase how we think about climate resilience and water resources, for example, or ecological restoration pollinator working group. So I think it's very likely we're gonna want to, especially with Mark not being here, we did have a conversation about some of the waste stuff, we'll want to have a discussion tonight and then maybe do a little bit of homework and come back and approve this at our next meeting. But that is essentially what I thought we could do tonight for planning and go through the different columns, research, action, target, et cetera, for each of these categories. Also, this matrix was put together kind of based on some of the work that's already happening. So tonight would be a really good opportunity to figure out if there are other things that we want other categories outside of these four that we would like to consider as being a goal of the commission. So with that I'm just gonna walk through kind of this clean energy example to both just give some fun updates and kind of, I guess, foreshadow Melissa's update later in the meeting on the Climate Action Plan, but also kind of walk through the criteria for how we're gonna set this up. So we've been working on clean energy, it's just kind of the broad base category. We have set the goal by resolution, mayoral proclamation, previous work plans, of this kind of bifurcated goal of 100% clean energy by 2050 for the city operations and the community at large. The research and evidence that is helping us get to this goal has been the benchmarking of city energy use. We've partnered with NWTC. John and his students have done just tons of really, really great work to help us get a baseline of the city. And the next piece is doing that same baselining but for the community as a whole. So I know that Melissa is working with WPS to get that information. And that's leading up to the big thing, this is the policy that is going to help us get to that goal, and that is developing a Climate Action Plan. So I won't steal the exciting updates from Melissa, but that is really the big undertaking that will help us get to that goal and the target date. Hopefully it's gonna be spring 2023 when that is complete. And what's wonderful about it are all of the different partners that are involved in that. And honestly this isn't even completely exhaustive, but the Green Bay Water Utility, Green Bay Transit are partners in this plan. Slipstream Consulting is helping with the development of the plan and the proposal. UW Green Bay, NWTC have been instrumental in providing student experience hours, providing expert information and work to help us get there. WPS, we can't talk about clean energy if we don't work with the energy utility, and then Oneida Nation as well has been really valuable and supportive of these goals. Funding sources, again, talking about some of those grants,

State of Wisconsin has been doing that. Point people, John and myself, have been spending a lot of time on it. This doesn't mean that it is just limited to our work, though. This will be an entire undertaking. And we have had a renewable energy work plan that has been revisited by or passed by the commission a couple of years ago, and a clean energy toolkit that helps advise local communities to figure out all of that stuff. So that's kind of where we're at with that, an example. I want to move on to the next category and actually kick it over to Julia to kind of help us center the water resources and climate resilience discussion. But do we have any questions on this format and what to expect for this discussion tonight? Excellent. And then any questions on the substance of the clean energy pieces there before we move on to the next thing, or any suggestions?

- Can I just ask a clarifying question about the actions developing a Climate Action Plan? So that is very, very specific to the energy though in general?

- Yes.

- Okay.

- [Melissa Schmitz] Also, besides energy, I mean, we should be looking and including also forestry components into that as well for carbon offsets. So besides the energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities and policy changes and things along that line, as far as getting to the goal, we also need to include that as a component of reducing our carbon.

- Could I maybe suggest, then, having it be like something like Climate Mitigation Action Plan, I guess a lot goes under an umbrella of climate action in general.

- [Melissa Schmitz] Yes. Yes it does. I don't know how, you know.

- That's fine.

- [Melissa Schmitz] Yeah, I'm not prepared to go into the details at this point, because at this point it's a grant proposal.

- Sure, sure. That's fine. That was just a question what it was specifically about.

- Cool. Any other questions on the energy pieces here?

- I think. In the clean energy partners, I think we should add in the public schools as I've kind of met with you and John less, I've met more and more with schools on this angle and especially with Green Bay public schools trying to get a plan going for the district.

- Cool. Yeah, that's a great suggestion.

- I just wanted to, I guess, I think what Melissa was referencing is maybe like looking at a tree canopy policy or something as well as part of the action plan.

- I would agree with that.

- Definitely. I think that'll be a part of that greater umbrella. Cool. Other questions, thoughts, feedback on the energy piece here? Excellent, great feedback. Thank you folks. I'm gonna kick it over to Julia then to kind of walk us through some of her thoughts on the resilience piece here, if that's all right, Julia?

- Sure, is it okay if I share my screen with the new stuff that I kind of came up with or should I just say it out loud?

- I'm fine with that, Melissa.

- I mean, how do we transfer the information to?

- Melissa, can we?

- [Melissa Schmitz] You cannot share your screen, Julia. In the future, you need to submit it in advance, so it's included with the packet.

- Well, it just came up from talking to Seth yesterday. So, I mean, what is the best way? I mean, this is just something that, I mean, you know, if we had organized thoughts coming into a conversation. What's the best way to get the information into this meeting officially, like right now?

- [Melissa Schmitz] Yeah, you can read it.

- I mean, I can also, okay. 'Cause I personally don't find that helpful. So I guess I'll just start. The first thing I was going to propose is changing the category title to Climate Resilience and Adaptation, and then have a goal of this was just really initial brainstorming, but to say strength and resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related hazards and natural disasters by 2030. And I took that language from the UN sustainable development goals in general. And then I filled in some of the research column stuff, some quote, probably what's going to be homework for us. Looking at some of the research we could use is really to outline local climate changes, projections, and impacts, and then also identify social economic and environmental risks due to projected impacts, and then identify specific areas and residents at risk. In the actions category you can see develop a flood resilience plan. I didn't know if we should add something about green infrastructure in there, had that as question mark. I started putting down partners. Wisconsin Coastal Management Program, the East River Resilience Collaborative, Brown County, just thought of one, but I'm forgetting it. And then a couple of our funders that came off the top of my head, but there's probably several more, including those kinds of coastal management fund for Michigan, federal sources, and a whole bunch more coming this direction through the infrastructure bill. So that's kind of what I had.

- You folks have questions about any of those things or additions? Randy, or are you just dancing?

- Thank goodness.

- Yeah, when you came up with the date for the goal, 2030, how did you come up with that?

- That was the UN sustainable development.

- Oh, it was in that, too?

- I was like, oh, that sounds pretty good. That's like less than 10 years. And, you know, we should help be helping people in the community become more adaptive by then, I would assume, so.

- Hope, you would certainly hope.

- I mean, we're starting to really do that work now. So I thought it seemed like reasonable and it's modeled off of something that aligns with bigger, bigger goals and aspirations globally.

- 'Cause I noticed sometimes that council, some others get very anxious and objectionable when we put dates on goals and I don't know why, they could never really explain that to me, that I could understand, but I think it's a good thing to do. You know, there's certainly, we want to have targets, so if it comes up, I'll address it.

- I mean, for that one, we could just be the nut, you know, I think what would have to change is either, you know, the goal does drop the date and it's a little bit more nebulous and then or we make things that are a little bit more specific and put dates with them, too. I mean, it could be both, you know, we could have this bigger goal and then kind of set some, quote, targets or whatever that are more specific under that. I think that could be a good idea actually.

- Okay

- Targets, like thinking a little bit what that climate, what adaptive capacity and climate resilience means for us and then setting targets around that. So is it, you know, getting people out of harm's way in terms of flooding in general, or is it heat, you know, like making sure there's cooling centers. I don't know, something like that, you know, making sure people are out of harm's way or something like that. I don't know. The UN sustainable development ones are really focused on preventing deaths, deaths and relocation. And so they were a little bit, probably more on that. Well, we'd have to look at how things are being impacted here, I guess, first. Without the research we wouldn't really know what's really happening, but we could have other ones too, including, like, economic damage. I think that would be part of assessing environment, economic, social, and environmental risk.

- I can interject a little bit if you'd like. Randy brought up some good points as far as the dates and things of that order, but you know, one thing that has happened in the city of Green Bay is, you know, the flooding on the East River and all the movement of folks and we're looking to relocate folks like that. You know, I think, you know, studying the floods that have happened over the last number of years and trying to figure out a good set up with public works, then other departments, police, fire, you know, that's kind of a localized thing, but we've had our share floods over the years and trying to mitigate that as much as possible by having a plan in place, working with all the departments. And I'm sure they're doing that right now, but I think that's important.

- A lot of climate adaptation resilience planning really starts with identifying risks and vulnerabilities within the community. And to some extent with the flooding, we started working with Melissa to do that with staff, but there's other one and we definitely we have a benefit in the state through the Wisconsin Initiative for Climate Change Impacts that we could, you know, we could probably get some more localized climate data for our area to really kind of assess what impacts in general there might be that we should be thinking about.

- Okay.

- So that was just a start, I guess. Throw it up there and see what sticks.

- Awesome, I think this is a really well thought out way to approach some of the resilience and adaptations, I guess, since we're gonna come back to this next month, I have your notes written down, but did we have thoughts on kind of accepting this for the first draft and revisiting it next month, or did folks have any additions or changes that they wanted to raise right now while we're working through it?

- I'm willing to help Julia with that if she needs any help.

- Yay. That's great. Thank you, I appreciate that. That's a great comment.

- Cool. Great, thank you, Julia. If there are no other thoughts, we'll move on to the the next section. Ned, can I kick this over to you?

- Hi. Thank you. Nice job, Julia. As Julia was talking, definitely helped me kind of organize my thoughts a little better as well. Looking at kind of our old grid, we had one thing dropped in there in the ecological restoration area about establishing a No Mow May policy. That is something that we definitely looked the last two years, decided pretty much against it. So I think we can probably remove that, but I think it can be addressed in a different way that I'll bring up in a little bit. So kind of for an overarching, oh. Sorry. It looks like Melissa, sorry.

- Yeah before you get too ahead yourself there, Ned, last year, I don't remember which month it was, but it was referred to staff for the No Mow May, referred to staff and then it went through INS. So we are moving forward with it this May. I don't know if you missed that meeting, but that's happening.

- No, I was at that meeting. Can you refresh me though on what exactly that will look like because it's not going to be the city letting things grow on city land where we need to keep it cut.

- That's why it still says establish a policy because the finer details are still needing work, and you know, your help with that would be appreciated. We've been talking with . They did this last year as a pilot program and we've already decided as a staff to combine our efforts with because they learned some things. What worked, what didn't work, going in on some yard signs together. Also really being able to add some educational component to it so that people understand what No Mow May is about. And also that even mowing less can reap the benefits. It doesn't mean it goes crazy for a month and we have a heavy, you know, heavy rains in May, and then we have hot weather. People are going to be really hard pressed to manage their lawn after that. And then it also puts public works in a difficult position for enforcement.

- Yeah.

- So we will have a registration process. That, we do know. And people that want to opt-in to that will need to pick up a sign or we'll have areas within the city where they can pick up a sign. So, homemade signs don't count. They do need to register and pick up a sign.

- Okay, great. Awesome. Well, thank you for doing that work following that meeting. Yeah, I think that a reduced, I guess I was going to say more of a reduced No Mow May slow No Mow May kind of thing like that, but yeah, I think what you've worked on in between then and now sounds really good. I guess maybe that could be part of under the action column heading perhaps, and if our goal in the ecological restoration area, I guess I would propose something a little more broad, but feel free, anyone, to respond. It's to create connected, productive, and safe habitat corridors in Green Bay's land, air, and water, and really setting a goal of, you know, 2030. Again, kind of with what a lot of us are looking at with energy and what Julia mentioned with the climate work and water, but kind of the overarching, like why do we have this working group? Why do we have this category? I think it's to have productive ecosystems within the city and in all those areas of air, land and water. So, that being said, is it okay for me to move on into some of the research and evidence that we might try to collect? Sorry, Melissa, go ahead.

- [Melissa Schmitz] Oh, you know what? Never lowered my hand.

- Oh, okay. Maybe that was Julia. Did you have your hand up? Okay.

- Yeah. I really like where you're at with your more overarching goal that you include air, land and water. I really liked that. I think for me you could make the name of your category a little bit better, like related to those things. Something that, I don't know, that's all. I think that was my, and then, yeah. You haven't got to the next categories, but because of the world I work in, like, I have a laundry list of people that would be interested in helping you with those things or that it could be partners in this area.

- Excellent, I think that's where I won't say a lot. I won't say a lot for the partners and funding sources at this point, but kind of, I agree with you, the name probably could be perhaps just ecological restoration or something along those lines.

- Well, I would encourage you to do something that really could connect with everybody, like the community in a way, you know, land, air, and water. Like those things, people know what you're talking about, or environment, I don't know. That's all I would encourage, simpler language that's not so. Ecological restoration's a little specific and kind of technical. It doesn't sound like it to you, maybe, but it is.

- No, that makes sense.

- Like healthy habitats and clean water or something. I don't know. I actually liked where you were going with the connected corridors, too. Connecting, you know, land, I don't know. Just something that rolls off the tongue.

- You know, I love the word corridor. So I do throw that in a lot of stuff. Habitat corridors could be, you know, kind of the theme of this is habitat corridor. So, you know, I'm happy doing that or leaving it how it is, you know, but I think you're right. I think it probably could use a little less jargon in the name.

- Wildlife is always a popular word.

- Could we put wildlife corridors or habitats? We can just put habitat, I guess?

- Kind of like the idea of like land management or something too, because I think, it's not just about the restoration aspect too. It's how are you managing your lands and, you know, a sustainable or responsible way.

- Can we call it land, air, and water? I'm fine with air, land, and water and leaving it at that.

- I guess I don't necessarily like the land, air, and water because I think we're kind of focusing on the water with the flood and unless we're going to focus on air quality as part of, you know, this group, I don't know if that makes sense to me, but.

- Ned, have you thought of an acronym maybe? You know, when it's land, air, water, that's L A W, that's LAW. That's just like an acronym that you'd have out there. I don't know, I just thought.

- Well, let me come back next month with an acronym or a cool name. I think that's a good idea. I don't want to hold everybody up on that, but I do agree with all of you. It should have a new name.

- Ask your students.

- I'll ask my kids, yeah. Okay. So I want to move into the researcher evidence area for this kind of, you know, habitat restoration type thing. I would like to create really solid maps of any restored habitat that we have or areas that we'd like to work on. So mapping is one. I'm going to get to the dark sky in a minute. And I do think a database of dark sky features is something that would be good to create. And that has to do with that safe air travel corridor for our birds at night. And then I really think part of this needs to be public outreach and creating some kind of public outreach infrastructure with the ability for us to connect with people, maintain records of conversations, let people know about work that's being done, if they want to volunteer on something, or if they have a proposal to bring to us. In doing some outreach work when it comes to some of this restoration work. Melissa.

- [Melissa Schmitz] Question. Would you put that in the action category? You were starting to talk about research or evidence, and then you started to the community outreach part of it.

- Yeah so I think the database would be the evidence and then creating that database will be when we get to that action step, creating mechanisms for that would be an action. And I was going to definitely touch on that as well.

- [Melissa Schmitz] As far as the public engagement and public education, who do you see leading that?

- I'll move into the action step now then. The three research and evidence were the maps, databases, and some kind of records of public interaction with us. For the actions, going along with the first thing which I said was mapping of the restorative habitat is creating a native plantings first natives first ordinance or policy for the city when we do landscaping as a city. I'd like us to, I think that also would go along with reducing spraying and mowing were feasible. And I think that's where some of that No Mow May work can come into. Yeah, is your hand still up, Melissa? I'm sorry. No, okay. So the native planting ordinance, the dark sky ordinance is another action step I'd like to take. I've got timelines for all of these for the next column too. And then creating those pathways. The third one would be

creating pathways for people in Green Bay to connect with us as a commission, to connect with each other around ecological restoration. So I'll pause there and I think this is where I should pause and address Melissa's question about who's going to be in charge of creating those pathways. I don't know what they will look like and I think it's going to involve some research and talking with other governmental groups or talking with other volunteer groups about what they think would be a good way to do this, because I don't have the ultimate answer of what that should look like. I do know that we have some social media presence, but I also know that we haven't made use of it as much as we could. There could be surveys that we're putting out. We could be advertising events better. There are a lot of things that we could be doing to promote sustainability in the city. And I know that I do manage that Facebook page. So that's on me to do a better job of that, but you know, maybe we need to create some guidelines around what goes on that Facebook page and what else we'd like to do digitally to connect with people. I'll stop there. Are there any thoughts or feedback on that part?

- Yeah, Ned, I agree 100% that we ought to create pathways for the public to get involved. I think the area where I have a little dissonance is that that should apply to more than just the habitat section. I think that should be an overarching goal of the commission for everything that we do, really. I know that that will be by design part of the Climate Action Plan. So perhaps we could think about, you know, another category of just general commission principles and goals, whether that's on the grid or just like some guiding principles for our work.

- Thanks for that feedback.

- Ned, I had a question for you. You were talking about mapping. I haven't been to many of these meetings, but I'm interested in what you folks are doing. And I'm just wondering, I was a map guy, research guy, you know, for many years and, you know, getting the data out there. There is GIS in the city, you know, public works, there's different departments had use GIS and mapping. I'm just wondering what your thoughts were on that, or what you have found or what you're hoping to get?

- So I'll talk about the pollinator corridor for a minute. That's a project we've worked on for the last 10 years or so and created some just physical maps, but over the last few years, Bobby Webster, especially over at UWGB, worked on kind of a GIS version of it. And it's very cool. She did a nice job. What I would like to see us do to go forward is create a publicly accessible map where people could drop their own way points on it, drop their own pins and say, this is another restored area in the city, right? To make that more publicly accessible. So I don't know if that's something we can host as a city, or if that's something UWGB would host for us, possibly. But, I do think we need to open it up a little more.

- Well, I think utilizing those schools in the area are really important. Brown County has also done a lot of mapping throughout the county, and there may be things that you can tie in with your land records department and their planning department over there. There may be a number of layers that are already created. If you go to Brown Dog, it's called, if you type in Brown Dog and go to it you can get a map Brown County, and then they have all different layers on there already. And you might be able to pick and choose what layers you'd like to have on or off. If you have questions so that you can always get ahold of me, but that's something I've used quite a bit.

- I appreciate that. Thank you. And then the other part of mapping would be to continue to work with DPW and parks to identify areas where we could remove some turf grass and restore it with some native plantings. Areas that are being used by people for, you know, sports activities and things.

Okay. So that was kind of my three big actions. I think we can move that No Mow May policy into the actions tab as well. Sorry.

- [Melissa Schmitz] I moved it, Ned, into the action column.

- Awesome. Thank you. And then as far as timeline, I'm sorry.

- Sorry, this is Kaurie. I guess I'm just still a little confused on the overriding goal for this group. So I don't know if you can maybe just clarify a little more?

- Okay, so for the big goal, I tried to tie these things together, right? Like what does dark sky have to do with native plantings, what does it have to do with reducing spraying and mowing? To me the overarching thing is that it's creating connected, safe, habitat corridors, right? At the same time, improving the quality of our land, air, and water by reducing some of the more pollutive ways that we use our lands.

- I thought when you said with the water piece, 'cause you use the air and land as corridors, so I assumed you meant water as a corridor too.

- Right. So water as well.

- Which would be a big water quality piece to me. So I hope that's part of it.

- Yeah, and so I think thinking about native plantings and thinking about restoring habitat, it doesn't just happen on land, right? It also happens in our waters. So I think anything that goes along with the native planting philosophy can apply to what we're doing in our wetlands in the city and what we're doing in our rivers, along the bay shore, right? I know a lot of that work's being done, but I do think it fits in with creating healthy corridors to also look at what's going on under the surface of the water.

- So could you say you're trying to create healthy habitats for flora and fauna and kind of the water quality in dark sky and everything comes along with it, maybe?

- Sure, as kind of the big goal. Creating healthy habitats for flora and fauna. I like it. Okay, timelines. The dark sky ordinance. I talked with Mark a little bit in between meetings. Hopefully we'll have something ready by next month to share with you and, you know, hopefully we can get it in the works adopted by the end of the year. And 2030 is, again, the target date that I'm just pulling out as far as converting our skyline to a dark sky as much as we can. There's nothing sacred about that date. It's just a date I put down. Yeah, Melissa?

- [Melissa Schmitz] Clarifying question for the dark sky policy or ordinance. This would be intended for city of Green Bay facilities and operations?

- Well, I think it could be community-wide. I think we start with city operations and streetlights and things like that. But I do think that if you look at the ordinances around the state, they tend to be community-wide.

- [Melissa Schmitz] My initial recommendation would be to start with city buildings and operations. I think as the city, as a community, we could be leading by example in doing this before it, I think it

might be easier to get buy-in if we start internally first. And I also think if this is a priority for the sustainability commission, to get outside experts and other communities to help the commission along the way with bringing this forward.

- Yeah, I'm typing that down about getting some help from outside. Thank you. Okay, for the native plantings policy, I'd really like to introduce something again next month and get it to council by summertime, which would really help us plan more for 2023 plantings, probably. Unless Kaurie or anyone else here thinks there's something we can do on a faster timeline, but I'm assuming, you know, planning for landscaping and things like that is at least several months ahead of time.

- Plan for 2023 would be a good target date, because yes, we are kind of in the midst of selecting plants and things for projects this year.

- Okay, great. As far as creating those mechanisms for people to communicate better with each other and with us on these issues, I'd like us, you know, maybe not just me, but certainly I'll put work into it to do some research during this first quarter of the year and bring it back for discussion maybe in May or June about how to best do community outreach. Thoughts on that one? And if it's bumping into something else that's already going on, please let me know. Partners, I think there are a lot of granting organizations out there that can help with this kind of work. There's the Dark Sky Organization, there's local restoration groups, like the Wild Ones, you know, there are a whole lot of partners that we could work with over the course of doing this kind of work. Funding sources, again, grants. There's grants out there. Appoint people, I'd still like to be one, and Kaurie certainly has the expertise on the inside. I think she should be one, too. Any questions, thoughts, as we wrap that up?

- Ned, I think a few good partners could be the Wild Ones. I don't know if you're familiar with them.

- Yep. I did mention them.

- Oh, I'm sorry. Yeah, that's okay. They're a fantastic group. So definitely the top of my list as well, definitely.

- Did you say that the Master Gardeners?

- No, no I didn't. No, but definitely a great idea.

- And then certainly, I think hopefully, we are going to receive an AmeriCorps grant for the Green Bay Conservation Corps. We're submitting our application in March. And I forget exactly when we find out if we get the funding, but our hope is we would be bringing members on board starting September of this year. So I definitely see the AmeriCorps members. We've already talked about how we would be mapping, you know, areas of buckthorn and things like that. And I certainly think we could tie in that group along with this work group somehow.

- Wonderful, wonderful.

- Sorry, Ned, for partners for you. US Fish and Wildlife Service? And then also the DNR.

- Definitely.

- There's also an umbrella group called the Green Bay Conservation Partners. So like I hope you could get on there. I put the website in the chat and then you can say, I'm signing up at least to see the lists so you can kind of see who's on. Check out their website. 'Cause that's like the whole list of partners, potential people interested in the work you're doing.

- Yeah, I'm glad you brought up the DNR. Melissa and I, I think, have a meeting with them tomorrow for some green infrastructure work we're doing with the school district and partnering on shared city and school park land, so yeah. We're hopefully going to be getting some help from them soon. Anything else anybody wanted to mention on this? Thanks for all the feedback. I appreciate it. And thanks for dealing with my two dogs and three kids that are making a lot of noise in the house.

- I was hoping for more puppy cameos. That's the only thing disappointing about the segment.

- I'll bring them up for a minute.

- Thank you. Thank you, Ned for that, and everybody for your feedback. Moving on to the last section here. So I had a conversation with Mark Walter last week about kind of walking us through some of these things. He's obviously not here today. I think that we can get, so taking all of these edits and the feedback and comments, we can get a version on the agenda, an updated version for next month. I almost said next week. Next month to talk through and we'll make sure we have some of what Mark was thinking of, but really quickly I think where he was at is looking at, you know, waste reduction as a whole. The biggest source of waste in the landfills is food waste. So by looking at either a drop-off compost site or perhaps a curbside pilot program could be a huge step in addressing that. So I don't know if folks have thoughts on goals right now but I think I'd want to wait until Mark was here to walk through the rest. But I don't know if anybody had any reactions or questions related to that segment in particular.

- There is somebody doing some curbside composting in town now. Right? I believe I saw that just recently, very small but active group. I'm not sure who it is, but I think it, I don't know if it's brand new or what. I hadn't heard of it before, but it seems pretty cool.

- I'll make sure to relay that to Mark, then, if that factors into his planning.

- I think it's Greener Bay Compost. I don't know much about them, but it feels like it's a new thing.

- Cool. Sign me up. Other thoughts on the waste reduction here? Yeah, Randy.

- It would not be a good time to talk about plastic bags?

- Yeah. Yeah, totally.

- Okay, Melissa, what will happen? I see that the box is still out in city hall for, is it still working on possibly getting larger bins out in the public, available to the public 24/7 kind of thing?

- No, no, not 24/7 and not in the public, just for the reason that there's so much trash that gets introduced when they are put in public locations like that. And the other reason being is almost every grocery store in Green Bay also offers plastic bag and plastic film recycling. Festival foods, all the pick

and saves, all the festival foods in town. I think Walmart does as well. So there are a lot of outlets for folks to drop off their plastic bags and their plastic film. We are continuing the program into 2022, and Kaurie, the last update I heard was 1,800 pounds collected between June when it kicked off and in the end of December.

- Okay, and as far as that at city hall there, I noticed that the box is still there and that got all squared away? We're not in trouble with the Fire Marshall anymore?

- In all honesty, Randy, I forgot to follow up with the facility staff on that, but yes, they're still there. And as far as I know, we are in compliance.

- And I did make a pitch to the mayor, and I believe Dan and even Steve, I haven't heard anything back yet, about with the benches. If we could maybe do something like dedicate those benches to a certain civic, you know, prominent civic members in the community or causes or whatever, and that could generate more publicity for the program and also offer more opportunities to educate the public on what can be collected and what can't. So I don't know if you've heard anything. I haven't yet.

- I have not.

- Okay, I'll poke them again. I was just curious about the plastic bags.

- Well, other thoughts on waste reduction?

- I came across an article recently and I don't know the details, but I believe California is now requiring people to recycle their food waste or you get fined if you don't. I'm sure Mark knows more about it, but I guess just something I've found very interesting and I'm sure he can probably pull ideas and stuff from that. So, just wanted to mention it.

- Well, I'll pass that along when I reconnect with him in the next week here. Other thoughts on waste reduction? All right. Now, next question for consideration, and you know, wanting to be mindful of, you know, not taking on too much, having a focus in city staff capacity and also the work that we can do, are there categories that we don't have goals around that we should be considering in the next year? Or do we feel good about where we're at? And I would definitely defer to Melissa to help us be mindful of the capacity piece, too.

- I guess I think this ties in, which is growing local food, more of it, you know, and kind of food scarcity, but also that local food movement, and maybe looking more at trying to implement food forests and things like that. I know there has been a little bit of discussion in the city about that happening and really strategizing for, you know, I think community gardens that thrive and work. And so I guess that's one category that might be of interest.

- Thanks, Kaurie. That was helping me because I feel like there's a big category missing. Some of it can come under the climate resilience one, but there's just, I think, I don't know if it's more of like the social economic equity pieces and food security is definitely one of them and like walkable, just healthy communities. I don't know, something around that, is what I'm trying to get at really. But I think a lot of ours are, some of them are very, you know, environmentally focused. So, you know, sustainability is more than just environment. It has to do with our social and economic systems, too. I

like the food aspect. I don't know if it's part of like a healthy communities or something like that where that's part of it. Sorry, Melissa, I didn't mean to.

- Oh no, I was just going to say a couple of different things. So when, Kaurie, I think you mentioned community gardens and, you know, growing our foods locally, my initial thought is couple of things. One, do we have staff resources for that? Do we have staff expertise to lead that or people within the sustainability commission that would lead that? And my second question or point is that Brown County has a wonderful community garden program and they have those sorts of experts on their staff. So I don't know what the city would provide in addition to that that Brown County is not already providing to Green Bay that Green Bay residents can utilize. And I don't want us to bite off more than we can chew as far as goals and priorities that we should be working on in this year. And then as far as, Julia, what you mentioned, the city has an equal rights commission. It's fairly new. Mark, maybe you know more about that than, or Randy, as far as the topics that they address, but there might be overarching goals that the equal rights commission is also looking at.

- They had a meeting tonight and I wanted to sit in on that, but it was a five o'clock, so that you can look up the agenda. There was only one agenda item, but I think they were looking at an overall plan of sorts as well. I wanted to throw something out to Melissa. What about the neighborhood associations? Have you gone out and gone to them? There is always some folks that are very interested in their neighborhoods and that might be a route to go to for different projects and initiatives.

- Yes. To answer your question, yes. I have reached out to neighborhood associations for the flood resiliency in particular, Joannie's neighborhood, the Joannie's park neighborhood, and then the adjacent neighborhoods that border the river. So areas of Starlight and Aster, East River, and is it Grove, is it Oak Grove?

- Oak Grove, yeah.

- So all of those neighborhoods have been. We did a community survey to those areas, to all the households that were impacted by the flood, as well as it was an overall resilience and social connectiveness, and, you know, are you prepared? How do you prepare for upcoming disasters? You know, especially flooding and we're in the process of going through the results now and working with Will Peters a lot because he is the neighborhood staff member. So yes, we are definitely utilizing that as a resource because it's a direct pathway for engagement.

- Piggyback off of that too. Within our first year as a commission, I did speak to the neighborhood association leadership council, and did talk about some of our initial goals and let them know, basically, that we exist. So that was a little while ago, would definitely think that'd be a good thing to revisit soon, though.

- If you go to the equal rights meeting tonight, there's a calendar of what they want to do this year. And it sounds like a lot of planning as well. There might be some things you could hook up with. There's another one in February of this year, public hearings featuring city administration and non-profit experts. April and May they're talking about public hearings featuring members of the community, and then they have September 1st deadline for recommendations. So you'd have to go over there and read that, but there might be some things there that might work with you as well.

- I think that's a fantastic suggestion. Thanks, Elder Steuer. I also, especially as my day job is in, you know, environmental policies and whatnot, I think every conservation or environmental or sustainability issue that we look at should be done through an equity lens. So I know that, you know, Ned had mentioned creating pathways for the public to get involved, mentioned social media and web presence and web updates, thinking about racial justice and equity. Perhaps we also want to just think about some general goals and principles for all of our things that we're working on. And those three come to mind in particular. But if there are any more that folks think of, you know, either now or in the next couple of weeks before our next meeting, I think that might be good to have some of those just on paper as well. And then I think following up with the equal rights commission is a great idea. I'm happy to do that. Ned?

- To go along with what you were saying, what Mark was saying, a couple of other folks here, I think a category that we could add could be justice and access. Because we just obviously have people who deal with the effects of pollution and also access, and in so far as how do we help them access resources if they need to or connect with each other if that's their desire. So if we're looking to move maybe the idea that I had about, you know, creating a mechanism for people to connect into a new category and also address some of these things that we're talking about with, you know, clean food access, pollution-free neighborhoods, justice, this could be a new category for that.

- I was going to add one other thing too. For years, I had friends of mine and I over the years in the '90s and so on Earth Day, we'd have groups of folks go out and clean up the river, you know, clean up litter, different things like that. We have a trail in my district where we had four neighborhood associations come out and clean up a lot of the litter along there. And it kind of was a great exercise to kind of unite, so things on that order. I don't know if you folks do anything for Earth Day as well but just a community event where you could get your voice out there a little bit.

- There is a watershed cleanup. This year it's on May 3rd. They kept trying to have it near Earth Day, but the weather ruined several years in a row. But I think, like, Ned, it would be nice to maybe have like a communications plan. I don't know something about how do we get, we all have access to a lot of these events and information that could go on social media. So what is the best way that our committee can filter things? Do we just all send stuff to you? That doesn't seem reasonable. I don't know, that sounds weird. I don't know if there's a better way. Maybe that's the way, but to think through that. How we could be more publicly visible, efficiently.

- I'm fine with people sending me things. I think it'd be nice to come up with the criteria of what types of things we'd like to put out there. And, you know, if there's a list of items, like we want to make sure we post every meeting or we want to make sure we post volunteer events, we want to make sure we let people know about this grant or whatever it might be. Some direction would help, probably. We posted for openings on the board. We posted for the resiliency coordinator job. But I think there's a lot of things that are kind of slipping through that we're not getting out there into the public.

- I think these are all some really great suggestions and some great feedback. I think just in terms of writing a plan during a meeting, I think folks have suggestions. I think we should explore some of these ideas in the next month and then have those reflected in our next draft that we come back. So I'll take point on just making sure that I follow up individually with people on some of these pieces and then we can make sure that we get a good draft for next meeting. Does that sound good to

folks? I'm happy to reach out but if folks want to reach out to me individually, too, that is, and of course I'll be working in tandem with Melissa on that. Melissa?

- One thing I was gonna just mention to the group is I have been taking notes. They're not perfect. There was a lot of things, obviously, that Julia had and Ned had that I wasn't able to get everything in there, but what I'll do is, Seth, I'll send you the copy that I'm marking up. And then the minutes will be posted within a couple of days online. So the verbatim minutes will be there as well as this recording. So, you know, as far as being able to use that, unless you're going to follow up with everyone individually, so it will be there and it'll be publicly available.

- Cool. That's great. I was taking a few notes too. So I think that sounds like a plan. Awesome, fantastic discussion. I know that planning, especially via Zoom, can, you know, rival a root canal. So this is a really good discussion. I think the last piece here is just meant to help us both stay on track, but also, you know, be open to new ideas from folks in the community, which is really what, you know, our democracy is all about. So does anybody have any reactions to just some guiding questions? If we get a proposal about an idling policy or about, you know, a community idea or anything, you know, good, bad, urgent, long-term, did these questions make sense to help us identify how we can take on new issues?

- Well, I know at council, and Randy can talk about this as well, but one of the elders brought up policy of turning off your car when you're at a drive-thru, you know, and I think part of that, you know, it might be good, but, you know, I think there might be a lot of push backs. You know, sometimes you have to look at issues and see if there's some legitimacy there. I'm not saying it's impossible, but I'm just saying that there seemed to be some pushback on that, but that's just one example. You know, at council, we've got so many different directives from all different departments and things. And so the process over to other departments, other citizen groups, et cetera. So I think we're open to that, you know, to whatever comes forward, you know, we'll take a look at it.

- Mark, I think some of the pushback came from our commission on that, so don't worry.

- I wasn't there for that, so.

- Yeah, as far as the questions and, you know, I think they're finding out, but I mean, I think it's really hard to pinpoint, I mean, who knows what's going to come out of the blue, it's kind of hard to, you know, get ahead of that. I think we just gotta take it as it comes and deal with it and I think these are helpful, but I don't know that we're going to be able to cover every contingency. I'm fine with them.

- I think it's a really good framework for thinking about any individual issue that comes up. I like it.

- One suggestion, do you want to appoint value to some of those questions? Like one through five? Like how well does it fit with our goals, if it's really high it fits and then you add it together and it gets to a certain level, maybe then we discuss it as a commission or, you know, some way, I guess, to have determination from these questions, maybe?

- I'd be open to what other folks think. I tend to shy away from like having a really hard and fast like metric and rubric-driven system. I think that it allows for, like Randy was saying, things kind of come as they do and you can rate the best criteria and then you're going to get a curve ball that just breaks the window. So I think my intention was to have them be a little bit more open-ended so we could

take things as they come in a more general framework, but that's my opinion. I'd be open to what other folks think about that.

- I was going to say the same kind of thing. And I think, in general, we need to address whatever comes up, even if it's, you know, hopefully we won't spend much time with it if it's something that, you know, this isn't going to fly anywhere, but I think it'd be, you know, we should be open to addressing everything and just afford it the time it deserves and the attention it deserves. But I think if the public comes forward with something, I don't think we should put it on the shelf because we don't, you know, it doesn't fit this or that criteria. I think that's part of the engagement we do, you know? Someone comes forward with something, we take it on.

- I think one of the problems that citizens have right now, I mean, each one of us represents 9,000 citizens in our districts and having them feel engaged, you know, a lot of times they don't understand the Zoom concept. They like to meet in person. I also tell citizens too, that, you know, a lot of folks think, well, there's nothing I can do. I'm just, you know, who's going to listen to me? But I always say, you know, if you've got an idea or something, you know, talk to your alder, talk to somebody at the city, there's always a good chance that we can get it onto a committee, you know, an agenda item and many times some of those go through. So I've seen some successes from folks over the years. So I would encourage that, you know, to have citizens, you know, tell citizens that, do it, you know, we represent them, you know, they're our boss so just encourage them.

- Well said.

- Yeah. I definitely appreciate what you've said. I guess kind of what I was trying to get at was, you know, do some of these topics maybe make more sense like the equal rights commission or something, and can this kind of help filter back to the right group? Or, you know, if it's super obvious, obviously, you know what I mean? It would make sense here, but I don't know.

- I think that's a really good point, Kaurie. This got me thinking about how we used to have transportation as one of our categories in kind of our big framework. I believe, I thought we did at one point when we started out the commission, and maybe that has been taken over more by the bike pedestrian folks, or if, you know what I'm saying? Like we can still look at things from that angle, but like Kaurie is saying, you know, there are some newer groups as part of the city that maybe we are going to refer this stuff to instead of taking it on.

- Perhaps that's another question we can add is, are we the best entity to take this on? Or is there another committee or commission that's better suited?

- I think a lot of that filters into the administration too. You know what I mean? As far as directing it to the right committee.

- Clerk's office, pretty much.

- Clerk's office.

- Everything goes through the clerk's office, so they're the ones who will decide. And sometimes, you know, it's been, I've seen, I've been part of where we say, well, maybe this really does belong over

here instead and we ship it over there, but it really needs to go through the clerk's office first. And they usually do a pretty good job of getting it to the right place.

- That's great. I added on just my rough notes here to add to the questions of criteria. Are we the most appropriate entity to address this? Is there a committee, commission, or department better suited to address it? Other thoughts, feedback on this or anything else overarching and some of the goals here? Most excellent. Thank you all for a great discussion. Looking forward to February when we can take it to the next step. So going back on my web browser. What would the most appropriate motion be since this is regular business, to just a motion to refer to staff?

- [Melissa Schmitz] I don't think it's ready for that.

- I think just a motion to hold. I'm sorry. Motion to hold.

- Okay. All right. Is that a motion, Randy?

- Yeah, motion to hold.

- [Melissa Schmitz] I'm just looking, Randy, my choices for motions and I don't see a motion to hold. I see received on place on file.

- No, there's a motion to hold.

- [Melissa Schmitz] Okay.

- Done it many times.

- Sometimes you have to put a date on there too, hold until a certain date.

- Our next meeting is in February, yeah.

- Okay. So would that be February, I'm just looking at the calendar when the next commission meeting is.

- Unless we think we need more time?

- 16th.

- The 16th. So, motion to hold until February 16th, then the matrix will be more in final format.

- Cool, and that was a motion by Randy. Do we have a second?

- Second. All right, second by Lula, or I mean Ned. All those in favor say aye.

- Aye.

- Sorry, can you tell me again who initiated?

- Randy and Ned.

- Okay.

- All right, and those in favor, say aye or wag your tail.

- Aye.

- Aye.

- Aye.

- Aye.

- Say nay if opposed. All right, cool. That's passed. Thanks everybody. Got to love beginning of the year planning. Move on then to resilience coordinator update. Melissa, it's all you.

- [Melissa Schmitz] Okay. All right. Well, hopefully not all of this will be redundant, but I am going to start off with updating where we're at with the code amendments for the green infrastructure project. So all of the proposed stormwater amendments and the zoning amendments for green infrastructure are in the appropriate format and our next stop now before this goes to a committee is we are going to do some public outreach. So we're in the midst of creating a brochure and a summary page that describes why the city undertook a green infrastructure code audit, and then a summary of the proposed changes in plain English so that the public can understand this and when it goes to committee it's very digestible and that would be an accompanying piece to the full markups of the code amendments. So we're in the process of doing that and we're hoping by the end of the month we have those pieces ready so that we can send those out to stakeholders. Our plan right now is to email stakeholders and have a contact so that if they have comments in the comment period they can get them back to us by a certain time. So that's exciting. That means we could potentially have this go to committee in February-March timeframe before it goes to council. Any questions on that before I move on to my next update? Okay, then. So the next one is the Energy Action Plan, Climate Action Plan, you know, there's a lot of different names for it, but we recently, last Thursday, I submitted a grant proposal to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. They have a division or an office of energy innovation. And so this was a comprehensive energy planning grant for the city and community as a whole. And we had great feedback from the community and got a variety of support letters. NWTC, as far as our cost share, we had partners pledge money. We had partners pledge in kind hours. Very, very generous amounts of in kind time were given from NWTC, from UWGB, and then also sustainability commission members like Seth and John as well. And as we go along in this process, we're not going to know until the beginning of March whether we get the grant, but I would anticipate more, I would hope that we can enlist your help as a commission with your input in that plan as well. The other support that we received was from, the Sisters of St. Francis. The sisters pledged \$1000 for our energy plan and we are so excited. We're so thankful. So I just wanted to publicly mention that. And also Wisconsin Public Service, also committed to providing community-wide utility data to aid us in our plan, which is fantastic. That's not always an easy thing to get depending on who your utility is. So we're very pleased with that. I'm trying to think if there's anything else, but if that grant goes through, it would begin in spring. So in March, and then go for 12 months. We also had generous support from public works with a cash match into that grant. The Green Bay Water Utility is also our collaborating partner with that and they've also pledged \$10,000

in the form of in kind time and cash. And the same for Green Bay Metro and that's our collaborative group. I feel like we do have a very strong grant proposal. And then, any questions on that?

- I just wanted to make a comment about when you mentioned transit. You know, Patty K was, have you talked about advertising at all on buses for anything?

- We haven't, that's a great idea.

- You know they drive all over the place and there's ads and you can get, that could be some in-kind, possibly. I don't know. I would check with Patty and see if there's something.

- Generally they're using that as a source of revenue.

- Normally.

- Normally.

- Well, maybe we would get a cut rate, Randy, you know people.

- I'm on the commission.

- Just a thought.

- And so lastly, the other thing that happened over the last couple of months, it started in October, but as a staff, we held flood resilience workshops as a staff. And we had, I think, about seven or eight, you know, at the beginning about seven or eight different departments represented in this process. And this was led by Julia Noordyk and a few other people within the East River Resiliency Collaborative. But we really focused on all of Green Bay, not just East River Resiliency. And we had people from police, fire, public works, planners, transit, probably forgetting some other folks. And we held two virtual workshops. And then also a questionnaire survey went out to staff members as well to identify flood risks, what the impacts are, and then we ranked the different flood hazards. Mark, Mr. Steuer, you had mentioned this earlier, as far as coming together across departments to create a resiliency plan and that's exactly the process that we're in, is, you know, not one department can do this all by themselves.

- Right. Good point.

- So, yeah. So that just wrapped up last week, right, Julia?

- Yeah, almost two weeks ago. Can you believe that?

- I know, it was a big undertaking, actually.

- I have some things to get to you, yes.

- So that's it. That's all I have for updates.

- Awesome, thanks Melissa for starting 2022 on such a strong footing. Moving on then to work group updates. I think Melissa speaks for the clean energy work group. Great stuff happening with that plan. Any other group updates today? And then hearing none move on to just any other member updates, announcements, et cetera. Cool. Hearing none. We'll entertain a motion for adjournment.
- Before I make that motion, I'd just like to thank the sisters. Thank you, thank you.
- Thank you so much sisters.
- A motion to adjourn.
- I'll second that.
- You're welcome.
- Yeah, your support is out of this world. That's for you, Randy.
- Thank you. I appreciate it.
- Motion to adjourn by Randy and seconded by Julia. All those in favor, say aye.
- Aye.
- Aye.
- All those opposed, say nay. All right, the ayes have it. You guys have a wonderful evening, everybody.
- Thank you.