



MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 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: Mark Walter, Seth Hoffmeister, Amy Kox, Julia Noordyk, Ned Dorff, Kaurie Mihm, Randy Scannell, Excused: John Arendt

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

I. Approval of the Sustainability Commission meeting agenda for March 16, 2022.

Moved by Mark Walter, seconded by Ned Dorff to approve the agenda for March 16, 2022.

Motion Passed.

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

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

I. Approval of minutes from February 17, 2022.

Moved by Ned Dorff, seconded by Amy Kox to approve the minutes from February 17, 2022.

Motion Passed.

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

E. REGULAR BUSINESS.

I. Discussion and possible action to amend the 2022 Sustainability Commission Work Plan matrix.

Moved by Seth Hoffmeister, seconded by Ned Dorff to Approve 2022 Sustainability Workplan as amended .

Motion Passed.

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

F. INFORMATIONAL.

I. Work Group Updates

2. Resiliency Coordinator Update

3. Other Member Updates

G. ADJOURNMENT.

Moved by Ned Dorff, seconded by Mark Walter to Adjourn.

Motion Passed.

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

VERBATIM MINUTES

- All right, item A, Zoom meeting information, success. Item B, roll call. Chair, Seth, I am here. Vice chair, Ned.

- Present.

- Although Randy, not here, not excused. John, not here, excused. Stephanie, not here, not excused. Amy.

- I'm here.

- Kaurie, not here, not excused. Julia.

- I just talked to her an hour ago, she's actually waiting and I'm admitting her.

- All right, I'll come back to her. Julia.

- Here.

- And, Mark.

- Here.
- All right. Welcome, Kaurie, just in time for roll call.
- Great.
- Cool, and we'll mark you down as here. And onto item C, approval of the agenda. Approval of the agenda for by Ned. Is there a second?
- I second.
- By Mark. All those is in favor of approving today's agenda, March 16th, say aye.
- [All] Aye.
- All those opposed, say nay. Alrighty then. Moving on then to approval of the minutes from our last meeting on February 17th, is there a motion?
- Motion moved.
- By Ned, seconded by.
- Second.
- By Amy, all those in favor, please say aye.
- [All] Aye.
- All those opposed say.
- One of the words of Randy, aye.

Seth: Mark, you're filling on his big shoes today, I appreciate you stepping up. Cool, so onto then regular business. Our only item today under regular business is our next discussion or another discussion on our Sustainability Commission work plan matrix. So just so folks know, we had had a very robust discussion last time about green infrastructure and just about our matrix in general and our work plan and all of that. We had made a plan to go talk to council, both about our plan and our goals for the year, and then also to potentially revisit some of the green infrastructure projects. We were decided to not revisit some of the specific projects for green infrastructure just due to the impracticality of getting those decisions reversed. There was also, I guess, a little bit of unforeseen circumstances at the last meeting in which it would've been you know, midnight by the time we would've presented. So we, you know, big thanks to Julia and Ned and Melissa, and I think John was there and Mark. No, John wasn't, but Mark, for the duration of that meeting, which there was a very lengthy community discussion. And that prevented us from presenting our work plan as intended. We have decided to make that presentation on April 19th, which is great timing because that's Earth week, and also that will be the first you know. We have elections coming up on April 5th, so we want to present to the council that will be there for the implementation of this plan. So it actually, I think makes more sense to do it at that point. I think that our work plan doesn't really need revisiting with

the exception of, we had a discussion about including two very specific projects at Roosevelt and Van Buren. If I don't have it in front of me, but I think I'm not mistaken there. And I think that regardless of what happens with our effort on green infrastructure, I don't think those will be the specific projects that we will be promoting, 'cause I think the ship is kind of sailed on that. So my recommendation would be to just remove those specific examples from the work plan. So when we're presenting in April we're not suggesting things that are unrealistic. So that would be the only change that I would want to entertain, although while it is open, we could go back if we wanted. So I guess the, my motion would be to the section in red, proposed green infrastructure pilot projects, including ones at Van Buren and Roosevelt to council and collaboration with public works to just change it to proposed green infrastructure pilot projects to council in collaboration with public works.

- Second.

- Okay. So I made that motion, Ned seconded it. Floor is open, Julia.

- Sounds good.

Julia: Yeah, I just wanted to make hope that we just left them at least general, not specific, but I think it is good to put something in there about green infrastructure 'cause that was lacking before.

- Yeah, definitely agree. And hopefully we'll have tons of examples more than just two. Kaurie.

Kaurie: I'm in agreement with the proposed change, but I'm just, I'm wondering if it makes sense to me make one more minor change to the overall plan, and that being we call it the AmeriCorps Program as a partner for the habitat work group. And specifically, the project would be the Green Bay Conservation Corps. So I don't know if we wanna call that out because it's more specific to the program that would be helping. So I think, I mean, it's kind of an AmeriCorps. It is an AmeriCorps-based program so I don't know if that makes a difference or not. But just a suggestion if anybody else felt it would be worthwhile to make that change.

- Yeah, definitely. And can you, so I'm looking at the healthy habitat for all. You wanted to change AmeriCorps to.

- Green Bay Conservation Corps.

- Okay. In addition to, replacing or adding?

- I think to replace, because the program is AmeriCorps-based, but it specifically will be called the Green Bay Conservation Corps. It is now in our planning, but you know, the program won't be implemented until we receive the grant funding. So right now it's not official, but in our planning it is, but we plan to continue planning for the program. If we were for some reason not receiving the grant funding, but we're quite confident that we will be, just based on the amount of funding out there right now. So just kind of a minor detail, but thought it was worth mentioning.

- Definitely while it's open, let's do it. Melissa, should I withdraw my motion and then do that or can we just add that to the main motion?

- [Melissa] I think you can add it to the main motion, but I would like you to repeat the motion name so I can get it right.

- Julia, your hand is up, before I make a new motion.

Julia: Yeah, could you, I was just, what course had made me think about? For the one. Sorry, going back to the green infrastructure one, could you just do it, could you change it to in collaboration with, wait, to council in collaboration with staff? Because just to make it general, 'cause it could be parks, it could be who knows? I wouldn't say it. It doesn't need to be specific either.

Seth: That's a good call. Any other changes before we revisit the motion? Randy, we are just making a few minor edits to the work plan. We're removing Van Buren and Roosevelt as outline specifically in that red bit, and then changing AmeriCorps to Green Bay Conservation Corps. Any other thoughts before we retinker this motion? All right. So changing the motion to under climate resilience and adaptation to change it, the text in red to read, propose green infrastructure pilot projects to council in collaboration with staff, is part one. And then part two, under healthy habitat for all, to change under partners. AmeriCorps to Green Bay Conservation Corps.

[Melissa]- Okay. My question is does that, is all of that needed in the motion or can the motion be as simple as approved the work plan, the 2022 sustainable work plan as amended, and then in the notes put the specifics.

- Let's do that.

- 'Cause that's a pretty long motion.

- Yeah, as amended with those amendments and the notes.

- Okay.

- Cool, and then, Ned, do you still want to second the motion?

- Who initiated the motion?

- I did.

- Okay.

- Yeah, I'll second it still.

- All right. Further discussion before a vote. All right. Seeing none, all those in favor please say aye.

- Aye.

- Aye.

- [Seth] All those opposed say nay. All right. And then this will still go to council, I guess. On the 19th of April we have a presentation. So we have Julia, John, Ned, and myself presenting, but I really think

it would be fantastic. And Mark, did I say you, did I forget you? All of us presenting on the different pieces. I think if people do need to make changes, I think to the slide show would be able to, but it's still ready to go from last time. I think it would be fantastic if everybody is able to show up to the meeting, we really do hope it's not gonna be after five hours of robust, but and I think.

- [Randy] We'll get you at the head of the ticket mister.

- Wonderful, and yeah. So if other folks are able to just join and show the support and just kind of put a Zoom face to the work that we're doing, we'll make sure that we recognize everybody and we can do the cheesy Zoom wave meeting.

- [Ned] I just wanna hone in, when it's that very first council meeting, it does take a while for them to elect their vice president and president. So, we will be sitting probably for a little bit, at least for some of that initial council meeting though. Bring a light snack probably.

- Okay, how long does that normally take, Ned? Like an hour?

- No.

- You know it depends.

- It can go quicker or it can go long, it depends but.

- Every time.

- But an hour would be really, really long.

- And Seth, I had made changes that didn't get in there originally, but somehow, but it's in there, whatever. So maybe I'll, could you just, you'll send out a email again, just to ask if there's people who want changes or something.

- Yeah, I can do that.

- Thank you.

- Cool, well, anything else on the presentation or work plan? Otherwise we'll just move on to some informational updates.

- [Kaurie] I think one thing I'd just like to say is I think it would be a good idea for us to present this one at relevant get togethers, for a lack of a better word, but for instance, they recently, or just this past Sunday had at the Aldo Leopold, the library and Aldo Leopold were in other some conservation folks there with tables and things. And I think it would be nice if this commission could promote our commission at you know, events where it makes sense. So I think including that work plan in the promotion that we do would just help us, help to make people more aware of who we are and what we're doing, and maybe drum up some interest in helping with our planning so.

- I like that.

- I agreed, did we have a table there? I thought I saw it on there, no?

- No.

- Your parks did, did parks?

- Yeah, the Green Bay Conservation Corps did. And then I know Melissa was there with city staff too, promoting the rain barrels.

- Okay.

- And then it was after the registration closed that we thought about the commission joining that group. So I think just for future, you know, if anybody is aware of any future programs or whatever, where we it might benefit us to be in attendance, I think it would be great to do that.

- I think the only thing that I, 'cause there's several things and I'm gonna cross the hall from the person who coordinates that. And also that you've presented at the Green Bay Conservation Partners before I think, or maybe, maybe not, or you've definitely intended it. That would be something that we've invited people to speak at before is during the work day for other people who aren't, who have other jobs. And then also what I also think comes up and maybe we just handle this on a case by case basis. But the fact that we can't be all together at an event. Right?

- Yeah, no forum, unless.

- Only if you're gonna discuss business, but if you're presenting or a social, we can all meet together. It's only if you're gonna conduct anything business. But if you're doing a presentation, that's fine, that's not a working quorum. And only a working quorum is if you're doing business that isn't noticed.

- But this has come up before where we had to try to say who was gonna be there.

- I think it's always good to do a public notice if there's gonna be a possible quorum. So you know, it's not like it's a big deal or it's impossible to do, it's just it is smart to be aware of that. Julia, I think that's a good point.

- [Mark]Yeah, I mean with the, our Harbor Commissioners, Solid Waste Board, anytime there's a tour or something like that, where there's gonna be a majority of those present, we always send out notice via quorum of the commission, and it's really simple. It covers your butt if there are actually is, and then no one can say that it wasn't publicly noticed and so forth. So I think it's a better idea to do it that way.

- [Seth]So if there are public events coming up in the future, can folks just email Melissa and myself and we can figure out either one of us can go. I have day is flexible, so I can do daytime events or just see if anybody else on the commission is able to, and we can, because I love getting out and talking to folks especially, I think that's a great idea.

- [Mark]If you wanna talk recycling, I've got two events I turned down 'cause I don't have staff to do them. But you know, titled, what is it called? Go Green Titledtown is in April. And we had a booth last year, but I just don't have anybody to go including myself. And then Bay Park Square wanted, is doing

something on waste reduction, and I can't do that one either. I'll be in Madison and I'll be doing an event at the library on the day before today and there's something Leadership Green Bay always does their environmental day. All of those would be good events to promote the Sustainability Commissions were.

- Yeah. I think somebody, I think we have leader. But yeah, that would be great.

- We are, for the presentation to the council, is that gonna be in person or is that gonna be Zoom?

- I think Zoom.

- Okay.

- That's a great question, I've been kind of wondering that.

- 'Cause we do meet in person now in council.

- What do you think?

- I don't want, I feel like, because you all still look at a screen though. Right? So I do not.

- We don't, I mean, if you wanna see yourself, yeah, but we really don't follow the screen much.

- Like if somebody's there in person, I mean, that's better, that's more engaging than.

- Yeah, great.

- Okay.

- I think.

- You know it's a PowerPoint?

- Yeah. But whatever you wanna do, whatever you're comfortable with and so on, but.

- That's fine, I would come in person, if that's the group decision.

- I would go in person.

- Most of my meetings are now in person as well, so that's it. And it appeared from that council meeting that most of the council member were. Were any council members attending virtually?

- Not recently, no. Most of 'em have always been. Usually when there's someone Zooming in it's because they had some kind of conflict and they couldn't get, they had a, it was just more convenient to Zoom in, but mostly we've meeting in person is just about everybody, if not everybody. All right.

- It's definitely kind of a barrier. I mean, it's obviously much more convenient to do so. I don't wanna promote something the whole group isn't on board with either.

- Hopefully I'll be there.
- I will. Yeah, for me, it's always a matter of childcare, so I will try to be there if it's gonna be in person.
- Bring the kids, come on.
- You can watch 'em.
- Sure, sure. They can sit by me.
- Melissa, your hand is up.
- [Melissa] I just wanted to say you know, if some people feel more comfortable or if it's a necessity that they Zoom for that presentation, I don't see why we can't do that, why the Sustainability Commission can't present it in a hybrid format. Because there's still gonna be, you'd still be following the slides. And at that point they're probably be looking at the slides, and so I don't think it's a, you know, it's not gonna be a deal breaker, Ned, if you're at home so.
- Yeah. In other words, it's not an either or, you either have to do this or that, it's, they're allowing for hybrid, that's fine.
- [Randy] But if you can't be there, you should definitely feel guilty.
- Oh yeah.
- It sounds good.
- Just Ned, just Ned.
- I will, Randy, just for you, I'll feel guilty. There is a-
- Makes you guilty all the time. So there's nothing, you'll always feel guilty.
- That's true.
- Doesn't really matter.
- That's very true. Since we're bringing up possible events, Aldo Leopold, the school where I work has a Aldo Leopold Legacy Day, I believe it'll be June 4th this year, so that might be a good place for the Sustainability Commission.
- When is that date, Ned?
- I believe it's June 4th.

- This is a good segue into just the update section. If we want to move on, if there's nothing else related to the work plan or the presentation.

- I guess I just wanna add one more thing. That if we were to go promote the commission at some events and things, it would probably be nice at some point to invest in like, a table cover and some other materials, I think you know, so we can represent in a most folks do at those events. And so just thinking about maybe where funding would come from to do that? Which I don't know where that would come from, but maybe grants or asks or something along those lines.

- Yeah.

- There might be, even from the council, there might be some contingency funding. I mean, I can't come to much money. And if it's promoting the Sustainability Commission, which is part of the you know, I don't think that's, I could put in some kind of communication or look into that. Gimme a ballpark figure what kind of numbers we're talking about?

- [Kaurie] Yeah I could put some cost together. Like for instance, I know one of those roll up banners you know, that you put behind a display is around \$300, or do we wanna go that elaborate? Are we okay with the poster board? Do we want just a table cover? You know, that kind of thing. So I could put some costs together and itemize them and maybe go from there.

- Yeah. Yeah.

- That sounds like a great plan.

- Okay.

- Even I was thinking taking kind of the bullet points from our presentation and putting 'em on a one pager, just something really easy to print and take away for folks that walk up. Cool, well, if you wanna do that, then we can connect before the April meeting if we need to put anything on the agenda, or Randy can put it in the communication if we get a budget, that's great.

- You can stencil the Sustainability Commission or the logo on a rain barrel.

- That's all right.

- At the table. I've done that before for Sea Grant.

- All right. Well, we're gonna move on then getting away from the main motion here onto just informational. Do we have any work group updates?

- I have one for, let me turn my camera on. One small one for the energy group that John and Seth, and Ned and I are on. I've been making updates to some of the city's energy, benchmarking and portfolio manager, and working with NWTC on bringing some of those up to date. This city is exploring, it's very preliminary, but combining some of the departments, you know, potentially for one building. So I'm just looking at all of the energy usage over the last few years for city hall and fire and PD, and muni court. So I've been working on that, and NWTC is helping.

- Awesome, I think we're.

- Just off the, I just wanted to mention. So the mayor and the Lieutenant governor were at our college late last week and we had two of our energy management students along with Jenny Brinker that were there and they did get to talk to the mayor and the Lieutenant governor about the energy projects they're working on with the city. And there was good questions and discussions. So I thought that was really great opportunity to put a little light on that.

- Yeah there is an opportunity for the students for one of their projects to do a solar site assessment at one of the buildings that the redevelopment authority has. It's the old Fraternal Order of the Eagles Building on Webster. So I was able, I gave John hip and steel the energy data for that building and we're just kind of waiting to see now like when that assessment might take place.

- That's great.

- So, technically on Vander Brack?

- Isn't it?

- Yes. Yes, Ned, you're very knowledgeable on the streets.

- It's just a cool, I always remember that street name, It's a cool name.

- Cool, other work group updates?

- There used to be punker auctions there, that's really why I know that.

- [Kaurie] I have an update that I think is relevant and worth sharing with the group relating to the habitat work group. And that being the Nature Conservancy has secured \$30,000 to work on improvements as far as habitat and erosion control along the East River. And so they're looking at Ledgeview, Allway, and the city of Green Bay to divvy up that funding so that we can, you know, hopefully all the municipalities can put that funding towards some of that work that would be happening this year. We have, within Green Bay, identified the section of the East River trail that we're gonna be developing from the Canoe Kayak Launch to Webster. We're gonna be putting in native plant along the shoreline as part of that project. And so that we proposed that to the group as you know, part of the city of Green Bay's funding portion. So they haven't necessarily approved it yet but we're hopeful that it will be funded through that source, which is great. The other thing we're still working on, and if anybody has good information to share, is finding areas in the city of Green Bay along the East River where there might be some problematic erosion issues happening. And if we can identify what that is, they can help us you know, to hopefully find a solution for it and maybe do something about it. So if anybody's familiar with the East River erosion issues in Green Bay, please let me know.

- [Julia] So, Kaurie, you know, I'm a co-lead on that project, and I suggested, based on the flood resiliency workshops, I suggested focusing in Baird Creek. 'Cause parks was really interested there, there is massive erosion issues in Baird Creek in general, and it's a major tributary to the East River. So hopeful, that was what I was suggesting.

- That's great suggestion.
- Is the grant money that the Nature Conservancy has specific for the East River?
- Yeah, 'cause it's through the East River Resilience Collaborative and the friends like Michigan Grant that we're doing. So it's part of this next two years of funding.
- Okay.
- Yeah.
- Awesome, that's great. Any other-
- I mean the, when we went, sorry, I'm just trying to think. When we went on the tour in Sep, I don't know, in the fall, you know, even Van Beaver Park, there was some erosion issues there too. But I think a good, I think Baird Creek is a prime. I mean, the city identified it, city staff identified it as a good location. And I know it's been an issue for years. There's actually, and then there's the Baird Creek preservation. So I think there's a lot of people who would be interested in working on that actually in general.
- [Kaurie] Yeah, I can definitely present that as in something that we're interested in, whether or not we can because of the grant and whether or not the grant can be flexible after the fact you know, I'm not sure.
- [Julia] Oh no, no, no. The Baird Creek, because it's part of the East River watershed accounts.
- Okay.
- Sorry, you wanna know what that is? I mean that is where your question was coming from, Melissa, I'm sorry.
- Yeah, I guess that's what I was wondering, if the grant expire-
- 'Cause you can do it in Bower, I don't know Bower in Green Bay. But you know, there's, it can be any of the tributaries, Sea's for the watershed.
- Okay, got it.
- Other work group updates? All right we'll move on. If you think of anything, we have member updates at the very end. We'll move on to your resilience coordinator update.
- [Melissa] Okay. Let me just go to the agenda to see what I put in. Okay so for the grants, there's two grants that we're waiting to hear from, I still haven't heard the one from the office of energy innovation for the climate action plan. We're supposed to hear this month on that. And so we also applied for, public works applied for a green infrastructure pilot project grant through the fund for Lake Michigan for Eliza Street, and so we should be hearing on that very, very soon. And then what was the next thing that? There's dates, there's some dates that I want to remind everyone about to encourage you to attend for the green infrastructure code amendments to the municipal code. April

25th at 6:00 PM is the Plan Commission meeting. And in that meeting the text amendments for chapter 44, which includes all the landscaping standards for redevelopment projects, vegetative buffer widths. So tree soil, there's just a lot of different landscaping things that are involved with that for green infrastructure. So try to invite people. I will be sending out a stakeholder email blast with the like a highlighted summary of the proposed changes, and hopefully that'll happen by the end of this week. But I encourage you all to attend to show your support and your knowledge of the project, that will, I think, go a long way. And then the other amendments for the storm water ordinance, this is chapter 16 and 42. Those will go to the Improvement and Services Committee two days later, on April 27th, at 5:00 PM. It really, the INS meeting follows, the Parks meeting immediately following. So Park starts at 5:00, and then INS starts whenever Park's is finished. So there's those two meetings, and they'll be publicly, that's all publicly noticed. And the code amendments in draft form will be in those packets, they'll be published. And then if those make it through the committee, then they'll go to common council on May 3rd. So just important dates to keep in mind if you are able to attend.

- I'm sorry, you said that Planning Commission's on the 25th and then they have other one's on the 27th?

- Correct. It's a Monday and then a Wednesday.

- Monday it's 6:00?

- 6:00 PM.

- 6:00 PM, okay. And then the other, the Wednesday at 5:00?

- Or immediately following the Parks meeting.

- Ooh.

- So that one will probably be like, it really just depends on what the agenda looks like for the Parks commission. So it could start at 5:30, it could start at 5:45.

- 6:00, 6:30.

- Right, it really just, I guess, Randy, you're probably a better judge of that. And what I can do, if I'm not breaking any open meeting laws, is I can email. If you tell me you wanna be at that meeting, I can let you know like, "Hey, this meeting's wrapping up, you might wanna log on now."

- I'm sorry, I might be just 'cause I'm really tired, but I don't understand. So is that on Wednesday you're talking about?

- Yes.

- So where do I make, what time?

- Wednesday, April 27th.

- Okay.

- At 5:00 PM or later.
- Or later, okay. Oh, I see what you're saying. Park's happens before it.
- Park starts at 5:00. But the way the meetings are posted it says, "INS 5:00 PM, or immediately following the Parks Committee." So for example, if Parks canceled for some reason, INS would start at five o'clock.
- That doesn't feel very publicly accessible.
- I don't really have an answer for that.
- [Randy] That's the only way you can do it because, I mean, the two committees meet one right after the other and you don't know how long the first one's gonna go. So you have to include language that allows for some flexibility.
- Not enough tweak.
- No.
- Okay. Moving on.
- Probably does it with some of the committees too. My oversight committee is Planning and Development but it happens immediately after Land Conservation, and Land Conservation always starts at 5:00, and PD and T starts at 5:30, or as soon as Land Con is done. So, you never know.
- [Melissa] Okay. Next update is for No Mow May. We're working on the signs. If I can find it, and that screw up my computer, I can show you what the signs gonna look like. It's a yard signs. So we're gonna have online registration, and it is required. Okay? So online registration and then a yard sign, and residents will be able to pick up the yard signs. Hopefully starting April 1st, that's our target date, or earlier, depending on when the signs come in. From the east side, DPW garage, the west side garage, or city hall. So, do you wanna see the sign if I can find it? Would you like that? Okay, hang on a sec.
- Since I don't Mow and May anyway, I may as well put up a sign.
- I know De Pere just voted on, for sure, joining us last night. I think it was last night, they voted on it.
- [Melissa] Did. They passed their resolution. Okay. Share my screen. Can everyone see that? So this QR code, when it's scanned will take you to the city of Green Bay, the DPW area of the website where the online registration is, and then it'll have other educational information about the benefits to pollinators of refrain from mowing or mowing less during the month of May.
- [Ned] It says more information coming soon right now. When do you think any, the information will be on the website?

- [Melissa] Well, I wanna launch it all at the same time. So the information along with the online registration, it's all being reviewed right now. So that's going well. The rain barrel program. We are targeting the beginning of June to kick that program off for city residents to be able to pick up a free rain barrel, or if they don't want a free rain barrel, they can show, they get a reimbursement for a rain barrel that they buy, but it'll be up to a certain dollar amount, it wouldn't be for the full. So if you're buying \$150 rain barrel, it's not going to cover the full cost of the rain barrel. It'll be equivalent to what the city issued rain barrels, the value of that. And I had a really good conversation with Jane Black at that Aldo Leopold Weekend. And she is the founder of this company called, or this organization called Creative Kids Rock, and they do a lot of art, environmental art. So we talked about hosting a rain barrel painting workshop through the public library after that. So that would be a good way to get the kids involved as well.

- [Julia] That's awesome, I love that idea. But you met the person to make that happen.

- [Melissa] Yeah. Well, actually I met her at the Fox Wolf watershed Alliance Conference that I attended last week, and then we just both happened to be at that Aldo Leopold outreach event. So it worked out really well. And then I think lastly, last night at the Common Council meeting, there was a motion to refer to staff to develop a comprehensive green infrastructure plan and that past. So that was good, that was good. If you've been following green infrastructure, then you know that is very good. So...

- That's great.

- Yeah, that's where we're at with that.

- It is. I'm really hopeful about that. I think that's gonna help a lot, that comprehensive plan. Melissa, did you say the rain barrels are going to be given away in June?

- Yeah, that's, again, where I'm trying to get all of the details for, the programmatic details finalized. And also working with our operation staff on how we will disperse the rain barrels. 'Cause what I'm proposing is to do one or two day blitz where people can set up a drive through where they can get their rain barrel, be loaded into their car. They'll have to show their proof of residency, it'll be one per household. And then do it like that. So we can really drum up a lot of interest right off the bat. And then after that, it would be more, the process could take on more of the form of, let's say you need to order a new recycling bin for your house where then the city can do that. But it's only gonna be 500 rain barrels. So when they're gone, they're gone.

- Is there any, have you talked about having maybe the Green Bay Conservation Corps help people who would like some assistance installing them?

- We haven't even gotten that far, Julia. We have been talking about filming videos of how-to video so that we can get that. They'll be step-by-step instructions with all of the rain barrels when they're passed out. And we're working on getting them in at least three different languages so that people in Green Bay, if you know, speak Spanish or Hmong and English, are the three languages that we're targeting right now for the instructions in the rain barrels.

- [Julia] I don't think you ever wanna underestimate what people want, are comfortable doing at their house. And there could be barriers, like if somebody's older maybe, or just like sometimes you have to slow your drain down, so that's intimidating. I mean, I think I wouldn't-

- It's two little, it's just actually one little hole, 'cause we're gonna be using diverter kits. So at this point we haven't had discussions as far as doing that yet. I mean, I can definitely bring it up to Maria. I don't know what the Conservation Corps's staffing looks like at this point. And I can't answer those questions. But I do recognize that there are some people that will want one that may not be able to or know how to properly install it. But we're starting at this point. So with getting the rain barrels in and distributing them and yeah.

- I have a couple of rain barrels, and it can take a little bit the tinkering to actually get 'em to, not so much to collect the rain, but it's actually to get 'em. You gotta have 'em elevated from the surrounding ground to actually get enough pressure so that when you use the water-

- Yeah. And that's all in the instructions.

- That's part of.

- Yeah.

- There is a lot of people who just want someone else to do it, them do, so.

- Well, I mean, we need to see if the program is going to be promoted, is that it's a do it yourself. It's a do-it-yourself program at this point. If we get more funding down the road to be able to hire people to help with the install. But city staff does not have the capacity to be going out to homes and helping people install rain barrels at this time. So that's how this is going to be rolled out and planned at this point.

- Yeah. I don't think it's a job for city staff at all, but I would just consider when as you're building it, like thinking about, could you have just a group of volunteers who are comfortable to go help people? I mean that's, what partnerships in the community could we help?

- Well, one of my, one thing I was gonna bring up tonight to all of you is when we do initially that blitz, it would be a perfect opportunity for sustainability members to volunteer their time.

- [Julia] Yeah you can sign me up for that.

- To that event, or if it's a couple of days. Because I recognize that not everyone can pick up a rain barrel between the times of 8:30 and 4:30 PM or whatever it's. So it would be ideal, in my opinion, to offer a Saturday time for people to do that as well. But that might be where Sustainability Commission comes in. So, I think that was all I had. Do you guys have any questions for me? I'm sure there's things that I'm not updating you on, but those are the main things right now.

- Okay.

- [Seth] Awesome. Thank you, Melissa. Last bit of the agenda here, just general member updates that we didn't already cover.

- I know Melissa and I talked earlier yesterday, today? When was that? I don't remember.

- Yesterday.

- [Mark] You wanted to, I would explain that actually. So I am in charge of grant writing for the port of Green Bay as one of the other hats I wear. And we acquired the Pulliam property from WPS. So we paid 2.7 million to WPS for that piece of property. Part of that property then is gonna get subdivided off and sold to GLC Minerals, who's a company that imports limestone by ship and grinds it up and use it for a variety of projects that we're also gonna lease a piece of the property to them. And then the remainder of the property is gonna get developed for port use. Now, so we got, the city of Green Bay, oh I'm sorry, the Brown County got ARPA Funds, American Recovery and whatever act. I never remember what the P is for.

- Reinvestment,

- [Mark] American Reinvestment and something. What's the P? It's a ARPA, the ARPA Funds. So Brown County has some ARPA funds that they're investing 1.3 million into Pulliam site for stormwater management. We got a Harbor Assistance Program grant from Wisconsin Department of Transportation for 1.1 million to do dock wall improvements. And then the big one was the week before Governor Evers came up and gave us a \$15 million grant for the property to basically do everything else that we need to do on that property to make it into a usable site. One of the things that we are trying to gingerly walk around on here is that he announced it as 15 million to move the coal piles. And I can tell you that's not gonna be, that's not gonna happen with that 15 million. So we've had a \$20 million project just to develop this, to clean it and level it out and get it to the point where you can actually use it for something. And then we'll start negotiating with a company, presumably Sea Rice, 'cause they still, they want more than, they want a lot of things there. And they're not that great of port operator. Well, I shouldn't say that. They have a history throughout the Great Lakes of buying sites and then just letting 'em sit idle for a long time, and we don't wanna do that. And also we are trying to make the port as an entity resilient by owning land, which we don't own right now, a steady source of income, or to keep ownership of the property, the 40 plus acres there. If we can convince and come to some deal with Sea Rice, we will actually look at moving, getting those. It's not technically moving the coal piles, it's gonna be using up the coal piles where they are, and then start offloading 'em at the site near the mouth of the Fox River. That would be the. Probably everybody in the city's, anybody who lives in the city's goal in the long run. I can't guarantee you that that's what's gonna happen right within the next couple of years, that's still another. The city's project is probably close to \$40 million just to clean up the Sea Rice site and redevelop it. And if it moves Sea Rice out, we'll actually, and if we have to sell it to Sea Rice, we'll actually see about swapping them for some of the land that they're on right now as a lower intensity port use, and then there's gonna be, the city has some development plans along there as well. So I'm still in the middle of another grant, the grant application that's due in May federal level. That is, the minimum ask for this grant program is \$12 and 1/2 million. I don't think we need that much for our program, but if I combine with the city, which is what we did for the grant we got for the neighborhood investment act program, the 15 million was actually. County put in a grant and the city put in a grant. They were coordinated but separate. We got our grant, city didn't. They got a grant for a different project in the city. So we'll keep working at it and see if we can get. I asked for 20 million on this project, they gave me 15 and it was the highest award in the state, so I guess that's you know, we ask for more than you gonna need and see what ends up. We're gonna ask for, probably

ask for \$40 million and see how that works out, but it'll be a joint application with the city and the county to get that taken care of. So there's a lot going on right there. We've had some other discussions about what the end result will be there and what it looks like. Right now you know, I got the grant for the county, so I'm retiring tomorrow. Actually, my boss said to leave for another five years 'cause that'll get us through the end of this project. Yeah, it was pretty cool. That's the biggest grant I've ever been awarded and it was pretty neat to see. But if you hear about people talking about moving the coal piles. It's a process yet to get to that point. And you also have to recognize that we've been looking at our numbers on how much coal comes into Green Bay. 15 years ago, Green Bay was getting something like a million tons a year of coal. Last year we got 160,000 tons of coal. So coal is not king anymore, it's everything, there's a whole lot of other stuff coming into the port. And we're trying to work at making the port more resilient and have more options for materials coming in. Long-term, we'd like a truck cargo container terminal right at the mouth of the Fox River so that we could ship containers outta which right now you can't do on water. Anyway, a lot of cool things going on. Melissa asked if I could just kinda give you an update on what all that is. And if you hear people, I cringe when Tony Evers said, "We're giving Brown County 15 million to move the coal piles." And it just was like, "Oh God, that's not, that's not quite." It'll get there, but this isn't gonna do that. So it'll be wild.

- Mark, I just was wondering, people. I mean, people are concerned about them being there. A new pile's forming at the mouth or at the bay, based on all the restoration efforts that are going on down there. Can you please give me the response I should be? Can you please help me talk about that aspect? How are you, aside from storm water, what are you thinking about how are you mitigating environmental impact of blowing coal dust?

- [Mark] Since we don't know that we're necessarily gonna get coal there, we haven't actually. We don't know what we're gonna get there. It could be coal, but there's still a power plant. WPS still has a power plant right there that we're gonna be, that's our kind of backdoor neighbor. It's gonna be a much more controlled site than it was where it is right now, just because it'll be a modern site and we'll be building it to modern standards instead of what's out there right now. In terms of blowing dust, cold dust, I can't honestly tell you at this point what that would mean, because again, we don't know for sure it's gonna even be coal. 'Cause frankly, in five years there could be zero coal coming to Green Bay, the way things are going right now. So then, if we do anything specific for. We're not planning specifically for coal right now, we're planning specifically for. Actually we're not planning for anything right now because we have haven't even gotten any engineering done on the site. Tomorrow morning I have engineering interviews with three engineering firms who are gonna help us plan and design the site and look at what it will actually be capable of. The things we've talked about and our estimates for costs were strictly staff estimates, no engineering background at all on them. So, it's a gradual process, Julia. And I've gotten, I've talked to a number of people from Joshua, from a number of other organizations that are concerned that were mitigating any environmental impacts as much as possible. Before we even bought the property, we actually been talking to the DNR and EPA about potential uses in the future. And whatever goes in there is gonna be cleaner than what was in there, without a doubt. I mean, there was coal there for, well, 100 years and this won't be nearly the same type of facility going forward. Like I said, our ultimate goal is that it's a truck terminal for containers from train to road to barge if possible. That would be, ultimately get the trucks off the road and put 'em on a barge or put 'em on trains there instead. Much more cost effective, much more efficient, a lot of different ways, a lot of different reasons. So yeah, it's like. So we have a concept, and actually we don't even have that concept firmed up in terms of the actual capabilities and the engineering standards and everything else to go in with that. But it's gonna be part of it no matter what in terms

of a much more modern facility than where it is right now. I mean, Sea Rice has, or coal's been on that site on Mason Street since 1890s, somewhere in the 1890s. So anything we do is gonna be better than what they've got there. And if we design the controls up front instead of back end like they are now, it'll be a lot better.

- Great, thanks.

- Yeah.

- And not to mention, I've been telling people that, that site had coal for hundreds of years and I never heard any complaints about coal dust in that area. Before, all the coal dust complaints were where they are, the Sea Rice pole is now. I've never heard anybody complaining about coal blowing over from that way before, so I don't know how it was structured before, but.

- I mean, there's some legitimate concerns. You know, it's, the lower bay is in restoration. I mean we're doing restoration activities. I shouldn't say we are, but there are restoration activities occurring all over the lower bay. And just because, frankly, I mean everything at the mouth of the Fox River used to be all wetlands. The area that Pulliam sits on wasn't a, that particular piece wasn't so much wetland, but certainly the fly ash landfill that they've got immediately to the west was wetlands. There were the wetlands where the Bayport dredge facility is, where the city's landfill is, that's farther west off of, and that whole area. And so there's a lot of areas that could be restored. And blowing coal will impact, you know, potentially impact any restoration activities in the surrounding area. Now, we do have a buffer to the west because there's a, the WPS has a peaking plant there. So they have a natural gas fired power generator there, and all the generation equipment and transmission lines are still there. It's the stuff between there and the river that we gotta look at. And the stuff the south is, that's not gonna impact them at all because that's GLC Minerals or Fox River. It's coal and limestone and every else to the south. But there's potential could blow across the bay and hit Marina, or McDonald Marina may complain about it if there's strong westerlies, you never know. So we don't want, like I say, it's almost too early to say, this is gonna be coal specifically that site. It's gonna be the best use for that site with the most protection we can put in there from modern standards.

- [Seth] Awesome, thanks for that. Very interesting update and congrats on the big grant, looking forward to hearing more. It's really, seems like great progress. Any other questions for Mark or other member updates?

- I have another member update if there aren't any other questions for Mark.

- All right.

- [Kaurie] All right, just wanted to let you all know that we've already met our goal again for the plastic film recycling challenge, and we collected over 500 pounds, 520 was the last count we got. So we're getting another bunch, collected a lot more plastic, and I'm sure we'll continue the program after. I think June 1st is when this current six month period ends and then, so we'll resubmit again then. So, that's great.

- [Randy] Great. Do you know if they have a limit on how many benches you can ask for, or is it just every 500 pounds?

- [Kaurie] I believe it's within every six month period, but I don't know that there's a limit to how many times you can apply. I think you can just keep every six months applying for one.

- Have we been giving any thought of where we're gonna be putting these benches?

- [Kaurie] The first one was put at the Wildlife Sanctuary at the collections site. What's happening with your plastic. But as far as I know, I don't think we've selected or there's been much talk about where the next one will go.

- [Kaurie] Parks is a, they're the ones who are placing 'em then, they'll be the one to maybe putting in a communication to have that discussion to come up with a plan for.

- [Kaurie] Yeah, I think, I mean, Parks is actually handling the plastic to get it you know, where it needs to go. So I would think it would make sense if Parks, you know, for them to be involved in the location, plus obviously we have a lot of parks. They could go in, which would be great. Maybe one at city hall too, 'cause we're collecting there as well. So, I think that would be definitely something parks could handle.

- [Mark] And actually I did remember something that I had forgotten bring up earlier under work group reports. The state of Wisconsin, in the assembly they've introduced a bill to provide grants for food waste pilot projects in statewide. I, you know, Seth you probably would know more about the legislators who sponsored it, in terms of whether or not it actually is gonna get legs. But, hey, it's a start that the State of Wisconsin through Depart of Ag, Trade and Consumer Protection is looking at providing grants for pilot food waste reduction programs. So that may be something to keep an eye on for the future. Especially if we start doing a pilot in Green Bay, that would be huge. And there's been a lot of activity on food waste collections and diversion throughout the US there have been a number of states that have now enacted state laws that require food collection, composting and so forth. So that's gonna be something we'll definitely keep an eye on as they go forward. Massachusetts is great, is doing incredible things, so as California, Washington, New York State, have all got food waste programs, food collection programs at the curve. So that'll be interesting to see how it works. I'm not real hopeful our legislator will pass anything, but, hey, we can hope.

- [Seth] Awesome. Yeah I'll keep my eyes out for that bill. And if it is able to move or not, that'd be great. And either way, it's a good aspirational thing to have. Any other member updates? All right hearing none, that brings us to the end of our meeting. Is there a motion to adjourn?

- To adjourn.

- Moved by Ned. Second by Mark.

- Yep.

- I think we're okay.

- Okay you go. All right, all those in favor of adjourning, say aye.

- [All] Aye.

- All those opposed, say nay. All right. Have a good evening everybody.