

**Village of Cottage Grove**  
**DRAFT Minutes Ad-Hoc Sustainability Committee**  
**Tuesday, March 9, 2021**

1. **Call to Order** Nicholas Hess called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm. This was a Zoom meeting.
2. **Quorum:** It was determined that there was a quorum and that agenda was properly posted. Committee members present were Nicholas Hess, Catie Malcheski, Jenny Rogers, Heidi Murphy, and John Williams. Staff present was Public Works Director JJ Larson.
3. **Discuss and consider the minutes from Feb 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**Motion** to approve minutes as presented by Williams, second by Rogers. **Motion** carried with a voice vote 5-0-0.
4. **Public Appearances:** public's opportunity to speak about any subject that is not a specific agenda item. No residents were in attendance.
5. **Sustainability Leadership Collaborative Meeting Report**  
Hess gave a synopsis of the meeting which is a group of leaders (elected officials, staff, and committee members) of various governmental units, school districts, and organizations across Dane County. Topics of note include solar installations in Stoughton and McFarland, hybrid police vehicle transition in Sun Prairie, Madison and Verona, and ordinance revisions in Verona. Hess reached out to Madison to get more information on the hybrid police vehicles. Williams discussed the replacement schedule for the police vehicles is generally at one per year. Malcheski discussed a grant program that was announced for EVs and EV chargers.
6. **Herald-Independent Interview**  
Lucy Ripp from the Herald-Independent has contacted committee members for information about our sustainability initiatives.
7. **Solar Project Update(s)**  
Municipal Building(s) Solar Panel Project: Malcheski discussed the budget options for solar PV proposals on the village owned buildings. Committee discussed the Solar for Good Grant that would cover up to 20% of the project. The application opens on April 1<sup>st</sup> and due May 1<sup>st</sup>. The roof conditions and any associated costs should be determined by the time we get to the final budget approvals.  
**Motion** to recommend the Municipal Services Building solar project for the 2022 budget proposals by Hess, second by Williams. **Motion** carried with a voice vote 5-0-0.  
**Motion** to recommend the Board direct the Sustainability Committee apply for the Solar for Good Grant for a solar project on the Municipal Services Building by Williams, second by Malcheski.  
**Motion** carried with a voice vote 5-0-0.

## 8. **MadiSun Program**

Next steps including outreach after approval to join by the Village Board. Malcheski will continue to keep us posted on the program outreach scheduled to start in April.

## 9. **Update Village Solar Ordinance**

Reviewed the draft changes. Hess gathered information and researched other ordinances. Hess discussed with Erin Ruth, Village Planner and made some additional edits. Rogers asked about reduction in incentives if the system is under shade due to vegetation or neighboring buildings. Hess reviewed the sections of the proposed ordinance changes. Hess will bring the more refined ordinance next month. Hess discussed the other sections proposed in regards to subdivision design to maximize solar potential. The new structures section would provide guidance for the ease of transition to all electric in the future, for example run the 240V to the garage when building the structure. Williams discussed an educational piece to this element that would include outreach to builders and consumers. Hess covered a proposal for EV charging station requirements in large parking facilities. Malcheski recommended that we add a solar-ready aspect to multi-family developments.

## 10. **Discussion of Weekly Recycling**

**Motion** to table by Hess, second by Murphy. **Motion** carried with a voice vote 5-0-0.

## 11. **Fleet Update**

Reviewed the general vehicle replacement schedule. The police vehicle replacement schedule is about one new vehicle per year and plans to start with hybrid in 2022. Larson will monitor the situation with the various fuel types and vehicles available that are compatible with current equipment. Hess will reach out to the Dane County Office of Sustainability to get additional information about large vehicle alternate fuel options.

## 12. **Rain Barrel Program Update**

Murphy and Larson are working with Rain Water Solutions to get the program finalized. Residents will be able to buy up to 2 barrels at the \$50 rate. Barrels will also be available for \$75 for non-Village residents and if any resident would like to purchase more than 2 barrels. The Village will be invoiced after the program for the \$25 per resident-barrel subsidized and any additional barrels to complete a pallet. Any leftover barrels will be sold by the Utility/Public Works department. The website is scheduled to go live next Tuesday, order deadline will be Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup> and distribution day is Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. Please let Heidi or JJ know if you would like to volunteer for the curbside pickup distribution day.

## 13. **Future Agenda Items**

“Earth Day” cleanup (Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> is Earth Day) and Earth Day event on April 24<sup>th</sup> with a Village booth, RENEW Wisconsin – Solar for Good grant application

## 14. **Adjournment**

**Motion** to adjourn at 7:23 by Hess, seconded by Malcheski. **Motion** carried with a voice vote 5-0-0.