

Village of Cottage Grove
DRAFT Minutes Ad-Hoc Sustainability Committee
Tuesday, May 11, 2021

1. **Call to Order** Nicholas Hess called the meeting to order at 6:00 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, and Heidi Murphy. Jenny Rogers joined the meeting at 6:10pm. John Williams and staff member JJ Larson were absent and excused. Staff present was Director of Planning and Development Erin Ruth. Peter Fiala of Legacy Solar Co-op was also present.
3. **Discuss and consider the minutes from April 12th, 2021**
Motion to approve minutes as presented by Hess, second by Malcheski. **Motion** carried with a voice vote 3-0-0.
4. **Public Appearances:** public's opportunity to speak about any subject that is not a specific agenda item. No members of the public were in attendance to discuss items not on the agenda.
Peter Fiala of Legacy Solar Co-op discussed the Dane county ReNEW Wisconsin solar group buy program that started in the western part of the county and has now expanded across Dane county. The co-op offers group buys as part of their services. They have live and on demand webinar to help educate consumers. Home-owners, non-profits, and small business owners can work with Legacy Solar Co-op to gain expert knowledge throughout the process. The group buy window for 2021 started in April and will close in mid-August then it would roll into the 2022 group buy. Legacy Solar Co-op would like to work with the committee to let residents/business owners know about these resources.
The committee discussed social media and upcoming in-person events that we can use to educate residents about a variety of options for group buy programs. Events include the rain barrel pick-up event, Fireman's Festival, and Marketplace Days.
5. **Review of updated Village Solar Ordinance(s)**
Hess and Ruth presented the proposed updates to the ordinances related to solar. Ruth provided a number of modifications to provide consistency across the ordinances. Malcheski provided practical modifications to solar layout and set-backs defined in the draft. Ruth will prepare the ordinance changes to be sent to the Plan Commission for Public Hearing. The committee discussed the other ordinance updates in the third section of the memo packet to promote more sustainability. The committee will continue to discuss updates to these sections and other additional ordinances that promote more sustainable practices such as parking space requirements and bicycle parking.
Motion by Hess to send Solar Energy Collection Systems ordinance and lot/parcel organization changes to the Plan Commission and Village Board with staff modifications and modifications as discussed, second by Malcheski. **Motion** carried with a voice vote 4-0-0.
6. **Wrap-up of past agenda items**

The committee discussed the Earth Day #cleanupthegrove event and will continue to make this an annual event.

Hess contacted the Superintendent of the City of Madison Fleet and the Director of the Dane County Office of Energy & Climate Change to gather additional information on the use of biodiesel and Renewable Natural Gas in each fleet. The committee will continue to discuss options to use biodiesel for large equipment.

Rogers will work on the next set of sustainability graphics for social media. Malcheski will take the group of graphics for the following month.

7. **Discussion of Rain Gardens**

Malcheski discussed the concept of rain gardens capturing rain water and absorbing pollutants in the run-off before they reach the storm sewer. The city of Madison has a number of resources online to help guide residents how to build and maintain rain gardens and this is something the committee could create for Cottage Grove. The committee also discussed reducing barriers to planting rain gardens, promote them in the street terrace, provide diagrams with examples, show homeowners how to route their downspouts into rain gardens, and provide signs for rain gardens that residents could display. We could also add rain garden examples on village owned property so residents can see an example. Murphy discussed the rain garden that will be installed in Red Hawk Park when phase 2 of the park build-out next year. Murphy suggested that this might be a good training opportunity for residents. Plant Dane has equipment that we may be able to use to run a community event when it is installed. Malcheski will start some educational pieces with the sustainability graphics for social media next month.

8. **Discussion on Bike-Friendly Community Certification**

Murphy discussed the concept of the bike-friendly community certification by the League of American Cyclists. A Bicycle Friendly Community has a number of policies, resources and educational events to make bicycling in your community a safe, sustainable, and enjoyable activity. The certification application process evaluates the applicant in number of different categories from ordinances for complete streets that incorporate all types of transportation, bicycling educational courses for cyclists and drivers, bicycle maps, community events promoting cycling, law enforcement officer training, and other topics. The committee is interested in helping lay the framework for the application process. Murphy will reach out to Sun Prairie to ask about their application process and committee members are to fill out the example scorecard from the informational pamphlet in the packet for next month to continue this discussion.

9. **Future Agenda Items**

Additional ordinance change recommendations, continue rain garden discussion, continue bike friendly discussion, volunteer times for the rain barrel event, outreach for solar group buy resources and other sustainability initiatives (and extra rain barrel sales) at local businesses and/or local events such as the Fireman's Festival and Marketplace Days.

10. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 7:15 by Hess, seconded by Murphy. **Motion** carried with a voice vote 4-0-0.