

**Village of Cottage Grove**  
**DRAFT Minutes Ad-Hoc Sustainability Committee**  
**Tuesday, December 14, 2021**

1. **Call to Order** Hess called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 Catie Malcheski, Ryan Minor (joined at 6:09 pm), John Williams and Heidi Murphy. Nicholas Hess was absent and excused. Staff present was Deputy Administrator, JJ Larson (until 6:06 pm). Village Board member Melissa Ratcliff was also present (until 6:35 pm).  
**Motion** by Murphy to nominate Malcheski chair pro tem, second by Williams. **Motion** carried with a voice vote 3-0-0.
3. **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.
4. **Discuss and consider the minutes from November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**  
**Motion** to approve minutes as presented by Williams, second by Murphy. **Motion** carried with a voice vote 3-0-0.
5. **Budget Update**  
Williams gave an update on the 2022 budget. The 2022 budget was approved on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Nearly all of the Sustainability Committee's recommendations stayed in the budget. The committee will have input on a few of the 2022 projects from the solar on MSB, rain garden installation, and the E-bike stations from B Cycle.
6. **Office of Energy Innovation Grant RFP Review**  
Minor discussed the overview and different parts required for the OEI Grant RFP. The grant application is due on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Minor will work on putting in our current project information into the grant application and the committee will call a special meeting if it is determined that we can meet the requirements of the application with the current project plans before the deadline.
7. **Clean Wisconsin Solar Promo & Survey of Village Residents**  
Malcheski reported that Clean Wisconsin's informational video highlighting solar projects in Cottage Grove will film in mid January. Eight residents participated in the survey regarding residential solar installations. Malcheski is going to work between Clean Wisconsin and the interested residents on the informational video.
8. **Community Guide**  
Murphy prepared an outline of our sustainability news to be added to the Spring/Summer Community Guide prepared by the Rec Department. The committee did not have edits. The document will be sent to the Rec Department to be incorporated in the guide.
9. **Leaf Truck Attachment Discussion**  
Village Trustee Melissa Ratcliff was present to discuss the option of using ARPA funds to purchase a leaf truck. Ratcliff discussed the background of the ARPA eligible projects and the truck details for

the proposal. Ratcliff discussed the interest in this service from Village residents and was looking to gather more input from other committees on the proposal. The impacts of leaves in the streets on water phosphorus levels and regional water quality issues were discussed. Williams discussed the other project options that have been considered by other committees. Malcheski discussed the impact of burning leaves and education should perhaps occur on the environmental impacts of burning leaves. Williams added that leaf burning is not allowed in the Village Ordinances. Minor added that the leaf truck may promote residents to leave their leaf piles near the curb too early or before a rain storm, for example, and if not collected immediately, could create additional problems. Minor suggested alternatives such as what we do now with a composting site or a leaf program that would encourage residents to compost the leaves themselves. Ratcliff will bring the discussion points from the committee to the Village Board when the ARPA funds are discussed.

#### 10. **Future Agenda Items**

Future Agenda items include a discussion on Complete Streets.

#### 11. **Adjournment**

**Motion** to adjourn at 7:08 by Malcheski, seconded by Williams. **Motion** carried with a voice vote 4-0-0.