



SUSTAINABLE SHEBOYGAN TASK FORCE AGENDA

February 07, 2024 at 4:30 PM

**City Hall - Conference Room 106, 828 Center Avenue,
Sheboygan, WI**

"People seem to think this is an issue that can be solved another time, but there is no other time." *Zoe, 14, during a school strike for the climate, February 2019*

Persons with disabilities who need accommodations to attend this meeting should contact the Department of City Development, (920) 459-3377. Persons other than commission, committee, and board members who wish to participate remotely shall provide notice to the City Development Department at 920-459-3377 at least 24 hours before the meeting so that the person may be provided a remote link for that purpose.

OPENING OF MEETING

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Input (Limit 3 minutes per individual)

MINUTES

- [4.](#) Approval of Minutes: January 10, 2024

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

5. Status of an alderperson, department head, or mayor assigned to SSTF
6. Conversation between Jim Van Akkeren and Council President Dean Dekker
- [7.](#) The role of a citizens committee in City government
8. Vision Statement Implementation
9. Lincoln Avenue resurfacing: a case study
10. Land Use and Conservation Subcommittee Report
11. Education Subcommittee Report
12. Energy, Housing, Infrastructure and Transportation Subcommittee Report
13. City Budget Review
14. Events of Interest

NEXT MEETING DATE

15. Next Meeting Date: To be Determined

ADJOURN

16. Motion to Adjourn

In compliance with Wisconsin's Open Meetings Law, this agenda was posted in the following locations more than 24 hours prior to the time of the meeting:

*City Hall • Mead Public Library
Sheboygan County Administration Building • City's website*

CITY OF SHEBOYGAN**SUSTAINABLE SHEBOYGAN TASK FORCE MINUTES****Wednesday, January 10, 2024**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair James Van Akkeren, Cheryl Sohn, Chris Kuehnel, Jeanne Kliejunas, Lora Hagen, Rebecca Stewart, Akshay Jain, Rebecca Clarke, and Kelsey Bird

MEMBERS ABSENT: Leovardo Aguilar and Jennifer Rutten

OTHERS PRESENT: Linda Shimon and Mark Mahoney

STAFF/OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Ryan Sorenson, Communication Specialist and Mayor's Assistant Veronica Valdez, and Administrative Clerk Rachel Masse

OPENING OF MEETING

1. Call to Order

Chair James Van Akkeren called the meeting to order at 4:34 PM

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

3. Public Input (Limit 3 minutes per individual)

Linda Shimon spoke on District Energy Networks

MINUTES

4. Approval of Minutes: December 11, 2023

MOTION TO AMEND MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 11, 2023, ITEM 13 TO "Discussion but no request to change officers."

Motion made by James Van Akkeren, seconded by Rebecca Stewart. Motion carried.

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 11, 2023 AS AMENDED.

Motion made by Rebecca Clarke, seconded by Rebecca Stewart. Motion carried.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

5. Comments from Mayor Sorenson regarding the purpose of the Sustainable Sheboygan Task Force and where to go from here.

Mayor Ryan Sorenson spoke on upcoming City projects.

6. Report on December 15th meeting between Jim Van Akkeren, Mayor Sorenson and City Administrator Casey Bradley

James Van Akkeren reported on his meeting with Mayor Sorenson and City Administrator Casey Bradley.

7. Report on comments made to Common Council and to individual Council members regarding the Sustainable Sheboygan Task Force

James Van Akkeren reported on attempts to contact Common Council members to attend future meetings.

8. Possible meeting with Council President Dean Decker

Jim Van Akkeren relayed information Council President Dean Decker provided to Jennifer Rutten regarding council member participation in the Sustainable Sheboygan Task Force.

9. Next step in implementing Vision Statement

Discussion on next steps toward implementing the Vision Statement.

10. Report of Land Use and Conservation Subcommittee.

No report made as next meeting will be January 17, 2024 at 4:30 PM.

11. Report of Energy Housing, Infrastructure and Transportation Subcommittee. Discussion of Electric Vehicle Policy

No report.

12. City budget review

Chris Kuehnel gave a report of the City budget focusing on an analysis of carbon emissions from amount spent on fuel.

13. Formation of Education Subcommittee and review of online presence

MOTION TO CREATE AN EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE.
Motion by Chris Kuehnel, second by Rebecca Stewart. Motion carried.

14. Possible new Task Force meeting date

Discussion on potentially moving the meeting date. Next meeting scheduled for February 7, 2024 at 4:30PM

15. Events of Interest:

In the Weeds Book Club 1/11/2024 and 2/8/2024 5:30, Mead Library;
Evergreen Park planning, public input 1/24/24 5:00-7:00, Mead Library;
Others

NEXT MEETING DATE

16. Next Meeting Date: February 7th, 2024 at 4:30 PM

ADJOURN

17. Motion to Adjourn

MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 6:08 PM

Motion made by Rebecca Stewart, seconded by Akshay Jain. Motion carried.

Item 4.

SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION BETWEEN A CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- ****Clear Communication:**** Establish open and transparent communication channels between the citizens committee and local government. Regular meetings, updates, and feedback sessions are essential.
- ****Defined Objectives:**** Clearly outline the objectives and goals of the citizens committee. Ensure that these align with the community's needs and the local government's priorities.
- ****Collaborative Decision-Making:**** Encourage collaboration in decision-making processes. The citizens committee should have opportunities to provide input, suggestions, and recommendations on local policies and projects.
- ****Representative Membership:**** Ensure that the citizens committee is diverse and representative of the community it serves. This diversity can include different demographics, perspectives, and interests.
- ****Mutual Respect:**** Foster a culture of mutual respect between the citizens committee and local government officials. Both parties should value each other's expertise and contributions.
- ****Transparency:**** Promote transparency in decision-making processes. Provide access to relevant information, documents, and data that allow the citizens committee to make informed recommendations.
- ****Community Engagement:**** Actively engage with the community to gather input and feedback. This can involve town hall meetings, surveys, and other outreach efforts to ensure that the citizens committee accurately represents community sentiments.
- ****Regular Evaluation:**** Periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the citizens committee's involvement. This includes assessing whether the committee's recommendations are being implemented and if adjustments are needed for better collaboration.

- **Conflict Resolution Mechanism:** Establish a mechanism for resolving conflicts or disagreements between the citizens committee and local government. This can involve mediation, negotiation, or other dispute resolution strategies.
- **Celebrating Successes:** Acknowledge and celebrate the successes and positive outcomes resulting from the collaboration between the citizens committee and local government. This helps build a positive relationship and encourages ongoing collaboration.
- **Adaptability:** Recognize that priorities and circumstances may change over time. Both the citizens committee and local government should be adaptable and willing to adjust their approaches to better serve the community's evolving needs.

BARRIERS TO A SUCCESSFUL CITIZEN COMMITTEE COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Collaboration between a citizens committee and local government can face various barriers that may hinder its success. Some common barriers include:

1. **Communication Issues:**
 - Lack of clear communication channels between the citizens committee and local government.
 - Misunderstandings or misinterpretations of goals and expectations.
2. **Differing Agendas and Priorities:**
 - Misalignment of priorities and goals between the citizens committee and local government.
 - Conflicting interests or differing views on what issues are most important.
3. **Resource Constraints:**
 - Limited financial and human resources may impact the ability to implement collaborative initiatives effectively.
 - Unequal distribution of resources between the citizens committee and local government.

4. ****Power Dynamics:****

- Power imbalances between the citizens committee and local government officials can hinder effective collaboration.
- Lack of inclusivity and equal representation in decision-making processes.

5. ****Trust Issues:****

- Lack of trust between citizens and government officials can impede open communication and cooperation.
- Historical grievances or past experiences that have eroded trust.

6. ****Bureaucratic Red Tape:****

- Cumbersome bureaucratic processes and procedures that slow down decision-making.
- Difficulty navigating government structures and regulations.

7. ****Resistance to Change:****

- Resistance within the local government to adopt new ideas or change existing policies.
- Lack of willingness to embrace innovative solutions proposed by the citizens committee.

8. ****Limited Civic Engagement:****

- Low levels of civic engagement and participation from the broader community.
- Difficulty in mobilizing citizens to actively contribute to collaborative efforts.

9. ****Time Constraints:****

- Limited time available for citizens committee members and government officials to dedicate to collaborative projects.
- Unrealistic expectations regarding the speed of progress.

10. ****Political Considerations:****

- Political pressures and considerations that may influence decision-making.
- Fear of negative political repercussions for government officials supporting certain initiatives.

Overcoming these barriers requires a commitment from both the citizens committee and local government to foster open communication, build trust, and actively address the challenges that may arise during collaboration.