



SUSTAINABLE SHEBOYGAN TASK FORCE AGENDA

May 08, 2024 at 4:30 PM

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

"We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope." Martin Luther King Jr.

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

MINUTES

- [3.](#) Approval of Minutes: March 13, 2024

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

4. Public Input (Limit 3 minutes per individual)
5. Sustainable Five Minutes; Rebecca Clarke: Zoning regarding landscaping and Invasive Species Ordinance
6. Report from Jim Van Akkeren on meeting with the Mayor on April 19th.
7. Recruit two more members.
- [8.](#) Urban Forestry Grant. Letter of collaboration. Possible action.
9. Education and Outreach Committee report
10. Energy, Housing, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee report.
11. Land Use and Conservation Committee Report.
12. Heat pump infographic.
13. Events of Interest:

Maywood Bird Walks, Saturdays in May 7:30-9:00. In the Weeds Book Club, May 9. GLC Bird Banding and Hike, May 11. Go Green, May 16 Mead Public Library, Garden Plant Sale, Old Plank Road May 17 and 18. Native Plant Sale supporting Friends of North Point, Saturday May 18, 10:00-1:00, First Congregational Church.

NEXT MEETING DATE

14. Next Meeting Date: TBD

ADJOURN

15. 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, March 13, 2024**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jennifer Rutten, Mark Mahoney, Leovardo Aguilar

OTHERS PRESENT: Jared Soto, Steven Griffith, Paul Reinemann, Tracey Ludvik, Linda Shimon, Bryan Kelly

STAFF/OFFICIALS PRESENT:

OPENING OF MEETING

1. Call to Order

Chair James Van Akkeren called the meeting to order at 4:32 PM

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES

3. Approval of Minutes: February 7, 2024.

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 10, 2024.

Motion made by Jeanne Kliejunas, seconded by Rebecca Clarke. Motion carried

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

4. Public Input (Limit 3 minutes per individual)

Bryan Kelly has been observing city meetings. Hoping SSTF will have input into the city's Comprehensive Plan and Complete Streets Plan.

Steven Griffith has been communicating with SASD regarding volunteering to work on reducing the district's energy usage.

Linda Shimon wrote a letter to SASD re: sustainable practices to be implemented in new buildings.

5. Committee Membership Status

Committee membership status was discussed. Mark Mahoney has been made a member. Linda Shimon has applied. If members don't attend meetings and don't respond to Jim's communications, they will be off the committee in April, as per city rules.

6. Sustainable Five Minutes

Sustainable 5 minutes will be a time any member can share news or nuggets they think are important.

7. Healthy Sheboygan County-Cheryl Sohn

Cheryl Sohn attended a Healthy Sheboygan County meeting. It is an initiative to determine what problems Sheboygan County faces. Affordable child care and affordable housing were identified as the most immediate and prevalent issues. The group meets at UWGB campus once per month from 2-4 pm. Next meetings: April 8, May 13, June 10. The next meeting will be large consisting of many reps from various organizations.

8. Report on Meeting with the Mayor

SSTF Chair Jim met with Mayor Sorenson. City Administrator was not present. Mayor was asked again for a rep from City Council or a department head to attend SSTF meetings. Mayor said if there is a particular issue, ask and the appropriate person will attend. Mayor suggested SSTF put together information to be disseminated re: tax credits/rebates for installing green energy sources in residential and commercial buildings. Mayor agreed SSTF should present sustainability information at City Council meetings when new members come on board, May 6 or May 20. Can submit written report bi-monthly if desired. We should present information to the city's Comprehensive Plan meetings this summer. Discussion of developing a Sheboygan Sustainability Plan. Mayor asked SSTF to compile plans from other cities to assist us in getting one written. It will be necessary to have a plan to obtain federal grant monies. City planning office has information on PACE program (loans for green energy implementation). Discussed new middle school proposals. Jim voiced concerns with Urban's placement and the ability of students to ride bike or walk to school. The SASD said surveys found that about 80% are riding to Urban now. Jim received permission to talk to the school architect about sustainability issues concerning the proposed new schools. Wisconsin Green and Healthy Schools site is a great source for questions and solutions re: green practices. The Mayor suggested we arrange a video chat with the Esslingen sustainability scientist.

9. Report of the Land Use and Conservation Subcommittee

City is applying for an Urban Forestry Grant. Grant specifies they are to be planted in disadvantaged neighborhoods. Joe Kerlin provided map of city spots they mow and SSTF can consider proposing for no mowing and/or planting of natives. Each member will scope out these spots in a ward to see which spots work. Discussed No Mow May. Joe Majerus of Landmark Landscaping is a great source for natural landscape tips. Next subcommittee meeting TBD. (Rebecca S. will let us know).

10. Report of the Education and Outreach Subcommittee

Subcommittee is putting together a sustainability info presentation for city council, to be presented 5/6 or 5/20. They will also put together a more comprehensive presentation for Sheboygan community to be presented at 5/16 @ Mead, Rocca Room, 6:30-7:30. Next subcommittee meeting: 4/3 @ 5:15 pm.

11. Report of Energy, Housing, Infrastructure and Transportation Subcommittee

Electric Vehicle Fair, now called EV Expo, to be held 9/14 from 9-12 at Maywood. All EVs (including bikes, motorcycles) and plug-in hybrids. SSTF members need to volunteer to be there 8:30-12:30 to help.

12. Events of Interest: In the Weeds Mead Library 3/14; Wintergreen, Mead Library 3/16; Flapjack Day, Maywood 3/17; Maywood's Nature Based Book Club, Mead Library, 4/6; Nature at Noon, Sustainability, Maywood, 4/9; Adopt-A-Habitat Training, Maywood, 4/13 and 4/17; Earth Day Park Clean-up, Maywood, 4/20; Willow Creek Clean-up, Glacial Lakes, 4/20; Native Plant Sale, Maywood/Johnson's Nursery, now through 5/4; Mead Seed Library, continuous.

Friends of Black River Forest 3/14 Paradigm, 4-6:30.

NEXT MEETING DATE

13. Next Meeting Date: April 10, 2024 4:30PM

Item 3.

ADJOURN

14. Motion to Adjourn

Motion made by Chris Kuehnel, seconded by Cheryl Sohn. Motion carried.

Sustainable Sheboygan Task Force Letter of Collaboration: Wisconsin DNR 2024 Urban Forestry Inflation Reduction Grant

May 8, 2024

Dear grant reviewer,

We write in support of a partnership between the City of Sheboygan and our organization, the Sustainable Sheboygan Task Force to implement an Urban Forestry Grant. The Sustainable Sheboygan Task Force is a twelve person citizens' committee which develops strategies to be adopted by the City of Sheboygan for creating and maintaining a sustainable Sheboygan, focusing on such topics as conservation, sustainability, climate change, and raising community awareness on environmental stewardship. As citizens of the City we support the grant application. We were involved in the planning for the grant and are now committing to assisting the City of Sheboygan by participating in the outreach to community members in the disadvantaged areas covered by the grant. We are volunteering to go to neighborhood meetings and to school PTOs in the areas covered by the grant. We are willing to listen to community feedback about the grant and to educate community members in the care of the trees that will be planted.

We see our participation in the grant as an opportunity to fulfill our mission to maintain a sustainable Sheboygan, especially in those areas seeking environmental justice. Benefits of the grant for Sheboygan include heat mitigation, improving our air quality, assisting in storm water management, educating the community on sustainability issues, encouraging the community to volunteer in the care of trees, and making our neighborhoods more desirable places to walk or ride bicycles.

On behalf of the Sustainable Sheboygan Task Force I am authorized to indicate our support and willingness to continue to collaborate with the City upon grant approval.

Sincerely,

James P Van Akkeren, Chairperson Sustainable Sheboygan Task Force

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