

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday April 21st 2023 9:00 a.m.

City Hall Conference Room

115 N 3rd Street

The Sustainability Committee met on Thursday April 21st, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. In the City Hall conference room.

Present: Mel Cozzi,, Vic Zaderej, Tim Benedict, Terry Schuster, Dr. Thomas Skuzinski, Darin DeHaan

Absent: Steve Rypkema, Russell Brunner

Public Comment:

No Public Comment

The group introduced themselves to the guest speaker Dr. Skuzinski.

Dr. Skuzinski gave a brief bio of himself and presented "Moving Toward Sustainability.

- 1) Sustainability Planning Documents (Poll Results)
 - a) 44% Polled use their comprehensive plan, 34% Capital Improvement Plan
- 2) Priorities (Poll Results)
 - a) 30% Focus on Stormwater/Flooding 21% Drinking water, 21% Wastewater treatment
- 3) Sustainability Influences
 - a) 85% other municipalities 65% Counties 47% regional organizations
- 4) Working with other local governments
 - a) 73% Informal Interactions
- 5) Green stormwater infrastructure
 - a) 45% Internal meetings, 31% public meetings
- 6) Greenest Regions Compact - No membership fee, agree to work towards 49 sustainability goals
 - . Sustainability Planning
 - . Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory report
 - . Sustainability staffing
 - . Specific programs and projects based on community needs

Comm Terry Schuster mentioned creating a budget line item "Community Efficiency" to include sustainable project funding.

- 7) Sustainability Plans can be whatever we want it to be. We could work on a fee or as many areas that we want. NIU could help with this and they offer interns (\$6,000 for 400 hrs undergrad; \$22-26k for graduate students.
- 8) Staffing for Sustainability
 - Embedding sustainability in an existing position
 - Shared position with county or other municipality
 - Part-time coordinator
 - Full-time coordinator / manager

- Key capacities:
- Grant-seeking
- Credible liaison with the public
- Connection across departments
- Coordination with county government
- Data collection and tracking

9) Potential grants list was provided. Darin will check them to see what we could qualify for.

Vic shared the information on the greenhouse as well as offered Dr. Skuzinski a site visit after the meeting.

Adjourn: 10:30 A.M.



Mel Cozzi, Council Member

Attest:



Darin DeHaan, City Manager