

City of Oregon
Sustainability Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

The Sustainability Ad Hoc Committee met Monday March 9th, 2026, at 9 am.

Present: Tim Benedict, Melanie Cozzi, Darin DeHaan, Cheryl Hilton, Joyce Lewis, Tom Pacey, Steve Rypkema, and Vic Zaderej.

Meeting called to order at 9:00.

No public comment.

Steve Rypkema moved to approve the February 9th, 2026, minutes, Seconded by Tim Benedict.

Motion carried. No Nays.

Finalize Eco Oregon: The committee discussed how to assign value to each item throughout the Eco Oregon program. Each category was assigned a point value based on achievability. Points ranged between one and three. A total of eighty-one points could be earned for successfully implementing sustainable practices within the program. Levels of achievement, incentives, and growth awards were also discussed. Steve Rypkema suggested offering business owners the opportunity to meet with a member of the Sustainability committee to discuss the program. They would also like to review the logo for the program at the next meeting.

2nd Street Green Space vs. Prairie: Darin DeHaan said his perception was a pollinator habitat similar to the one created at the Ogle County Health Department on Pines Road. Tom Pacey said these types of spaces typically start as a prairie and turn into a pollinator habitat. He said species selection will be important when it comes to planting. Melanie Cozzi said the space will be more like a prairie garden. Darin DeHaan said there are other grants available such as the OSLAD grant. The committee discussed not rushing into the project, the need to educate residents, reach out to volunteers, and present a formal plan to the City Council.

Steve Rypkema moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:29 a.m., Seconded by Tom Pacey.

Motion carried. No Nays.

Submitted by City Clerk Cheryl Hilton