

Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

6:00 PM

Meeting Held Via: Zoom

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call: Ralph Bicknese, Nick Frisella, Meghan Hagerty Homa, Nancy Schick, Jonathan Spencer. Staff present Laura Miller.
- III. Public Comment: Spencer spoke on behalf of a resident that messaged him after the Council meeting presentation. The resident wanted to know how the City was able to fund solar panels for City Hall and why the same processes wouldn't apply for the library.

Bicknese responded that a performance contract included energy improvements for the whole building (City Hall) but wasn't sure what fund these improvements came out of because it included other improvements to City Hall. Bicknese also commented that he thought this included funding to improve City-owned street lights.

- IV. Approval of Minutes from the February 2, 2021 Meeting: Spencer made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Frisella. All in favor.
- V. Discussion about Garden/Yard Contest:
Schick suggested the idea of having a contest for residents. The commission discussed what the contest would look like. Frisella suggested contacting MapleGOOD Grows to partner with.

Hagerty Homa asked about stipulations with gardens, referencing an issue with a resident a few years back. Bicknese commented about a weed ordinance and not allowing things to grow over sidewalks.

Schick offered to reach out to MapleGROWS to discuss the idea.

- VI. Discussion: EV Station Locations:
Miller mentioned the Marietta parking lot and north side of manchester in the 7300 block.

The Commission agreed with both suggestions and also suggested the Schnucks parking lot.

Bicknese mentioned Ameren's grant for EV stations.

VII. Old Business:

Spencer asked Miller about the Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policy. Miller responded that not all departments have responded with comments.

Miller thanked Frisella for sending information about the Ameren Residential Energy Efficiency Programs. Miller said the information will be posted on the City's website and Facebook.

Frisella asked Miller to highlight the PAYS programs.

Spencer mentioned that Councilmember Crosley was interested in the City of St. Louis' Climate Action Plan and he connected her with Ralph Bicknese for more information.

Bicknese reported in 2003 the City performed a greenhouse gas inventory and a climate action plan was developed and presented to the Council by the Sustainability Commission. The Council declined to adopt the plan because they didn't want to commit to setting greenhouse gas reduction levels without understanding the funding issues involved.

Bicknese recommended a new greenhouse gas inventory and climate action plan.

Frisella commented about the improvements with City Hall and led lighting and how it may have helped.

Bicknese reported that he would follow up with Councilmember Crosley and suggested the Commission discuss making a recommendation to the Council on a path forward.

VIII. New Business:

Miller reported on a Community Conservation Cost Share Program grant. The commission discussed removing invasive plants/trees and replacing them with native plants.

Bicknese commented that the trees along Manchester and Sutton are not healthy.

Miller responded that she would follow up with Anthony Traxler on plans for the tree wells.

Spencer suggested planting monarch milkweed patches to support monarch migration.

Bicknese suggested native plants.

Spencer mentioned his neighbor spoke at the Council meeting about an ordinance prohibiting him from placing a bathroom in his home office which is located in his garage. He suggested the Commission think about what Maplewood could do to encourage working from home.

- IX. Spencer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Schick. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM