



Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 6, 2021

6:00 PM

Meeting Held Via: Zoom

I. Call to Order

- I. Roll Call: Ralph Bicknese, Megan Hagerty-Homa, Nancy Schick, and Jonathan Spencer. Staff present Laura Miller.

II. Public Comment - None

- II. Approval of Minutes from the May 4, 2021 Meeting: Bicknese made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Schick. All in favor.

- III. Bat Conservation Program - Presentation from Jonathan Spencer: See attached presentation.

Bicknese asked about the proposed action. Spencer replied he is still trying to find someone to speak jointly with the Library, public education

Miller offered to on social media and the website on behalf of the sustainability Commission.

IV. Discussion: Lights Out Resolution

Spencer spoke about a resolution that St. Louis County passed in April, see attached resolution.

Hagerty-Homa commented about residents concerned with lack of lighting from a public safety view and how to address this concern with this resolution.

Spencer suggested lights on motion sensors so they are not on all the time or lights that have a protector over them so the light is focused on the ground.

Bicknese commented that brighter lights don't necessarily improve safety. The right amount of low-level illumination can be conducive to crime prevention but doesn't need to be excessively bright. Bicknese referenced an ordinance for commercial building

lighting. Parking lot and street lighting are big offenders. Bicknese further commented he is in favor of the Council pass this resolution and that the resolution is not going to force anyone to turn off their lights but rather encourage them to turn their lights off and recognize the importance of the flyaways.

Spencer suggested a red light versus a full-spectrum white light.

Schick commented about ordinances and one that addresses light trespass.

Spencer proposed the commission write a proposed resolution and present it to the City Council. Schick and Hagerty-Homa offered to help write the resolution.

V. Discussion: Accessory Dwelling Units

Spencer shared St. Louis County Residential Tiny Houses Checklist.

<https://stlouiscountymo.gov/st-louis-county-departments/transportation-and-public-works/public-works-publications-and-manuals/pw-residential-guides/tiny-house-checklist/>

Bicknese commented whether Maplewood could do something to encourage tiny houses to be built on public land and or make sure they are allowed to have accessory dwellings like this on existing residential lots.

Hagerty-Homa commented this would need to be a collaborative endeavor because of different ordinances in Maplewood and that there were conversations about where this be able to occur since we are landlocked. Hagerty-Homa mentioned this is a good time to bring it up since ordinances are being reviewed.

Bicknese commented n language that is typically used in zoning ordinances related to accessory dwellings.

Bicknese commented that the Mayor is very interested in allowing this.

Schick referenced her conversation with the Mayor and her interest in seeing something like this happening. Schick stated that this is something worth working on.

Bicknese suggested taking this to the Mayor to see if this is something she would like to support.

Spencer suggested sending this to Maplewood's building official. Miller suggested sending this to Anthony Traxler as the Zoning administrator. Bicknese offered to forward the info to Brian and Anthony.

VI. Sustainability Commission Work Plan discussion:

Hagerty-Homa introduced the idea of a more focused purpose for the commission. She referenced other commissions and most had an overall mission and purpose with 3 or so action items.

Bicknese referenced the resolution that was adopted by the Council for the Sustainability Commission. The Commission serves as an advisory group. He further touched on some accomplishments over the years such as greenhouse gas emissions inventory and climate action plan that the City chose not to adopt. Bicknese suggested revisiting the climate action plan.

Hagerty-Homa asked if the City had a designated sustainability person. Miller replied no

Hagerty-Homa asked the Commission if they felt they would benefit from a more structured plan.

Spencer commented that the Commission had an opportunity to nominate a secretary. This position could send out action items and or current priorities with member responsibilities.

Spencer requested that action items be added to old business and keep on the list until completed.

VII. Old Business

a. Library Roof Update

Miller reported the following:

- Appeared to have no roof leaks
- The problem may be coming from drains
- The company will fly a drone over the roof to see if there is any dampness
- City asked the Library to change the ceiling tiles to see if water is still entering the building and where it might be coming from
- The roof does not need to be replaced at this time
- Water issue needs to be addresses
- The city is having the building tuck pointed

VIII. New Business - None

IX. Meeting adjournment at 7:28 PM