



Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 3, 2021

6:00 PM

Meeting Held Via: Zoom

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call: Ralph Bicknese, Stefan Denson, Meghan Hagerty-Homa, Heidi Schoen, Jonathan Spencer. Staff present included Laura Miller.

Commission members welcomed new member Stefan Denson.

- III. Public Comment: None
- IV. Approval of Minutes from the July 6, 2021 Meeting: Spencer made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Bicknese.
- V. Presentation from the Parks and Recreation Commission:
Becky Flynn spoke about the following items:
 - Working to get volunteers to help de-weed Sutton Loop and Central Parks on August 28
 - Advice on invasive plants
 - Advice on native plants for the parks
 - Master park plan
 - Open to other ways for the commissions to partner

Spencer mentioned that Scott Woodbury with Shaw Nature Reserve is a good resource for native species.

Spencer shared a link to a listing of invasive plants in Maplewood

<https://github.com/jonathanfspencer/maplewoods>

Bicknese provided a brief update of things the commission has been working on that the Parks & Recreation Commission may be interested in.

- Invasive species
- Bats, bees and mosquitos

- Desire not to have spray in our community
- Native gardening

VI. City Council Report: Miller reported that the City Council has requested a report from the Sustainability Commission at the August 24 meeting.

Schoen commented that she would look at the last report and make updates.

VII. Sustainability Commission Work Plan:

Commission thanked Hagerty-Homa for putting this draft plan together.

Schoen commented that the commission should identify the items that have merit, can take action on and show progress. May need more time to tackle. There are a lot of items to tackle and not enough people to do them.

Schoen suggested letting the Council know the Commission is developing a work plan and will present it at a later date.

Hagerty-Homa commented that the intention of the draft plan was a “brain dump” knowing full well some items would be a priority and others not.

Denson requested a copy of the draft work plan. Miller responded that she just emailed it to him.

Bicknese suggested we make this an action item for the next meeting and be prepared to discuss it. He also suggested that the plan be goal-oriented and prioritize the list.

Denson asked if there was any feedback from other members about this document. He further commented that it seemed premature to go to the Council with the work plan. Appears we need a work session amongst ourselves and time to prioritize. Present the plan to the Council with our priorities and if they want to alter anything we are doing we’re all working from the same place. This might make it feel less stressful.

Miller commented that she would set up a Google Doc and share it with the Commission.

VIII. 2021 St. Louis County Recycling and Solid Waste Reduction Grants: Miller discussed the grant options and recommended Electronic Recycling.

Schoen asked what kind of help is needed for this. Miller responded possibly volunteers.

Miller stated the deadline is August 30 for the grant.

Bicknese commented on the special event recycling grant and how it would work.

Spencer mentioned Recycling on the Go for events.

The commission discussed the possibility of a recycling program for events.

The Commission agreed to move forward with the recycling event.

- IX. Old Business – No discussion
 - a. Library Roof
 - b. Lights Out Resolution
 - c. Accessory Dwelling Units
 - d. Climate Action Plan
 - e. Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy
 - f. Garden/Yard Contest
 - g. Guest Speaker Partnership with the Library

- X. New Business: None

- XI. Bicknese made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Spencer. Meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.