

MINUTES
INNOVATION, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
May 24, 2022
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
31555 W. ELEVEN MILE ROAD
FARMINGTON HILLS, MICHIGAN

CALL TO ORDER BY: Chairperson Strickfaden at 6:33 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nikolas deWit, Aaron Paluzzi, Erin Quetell, Nick Rudofski, Matt Strickfaden, Jennifer Whitteaker, Mark Zachos (left at 7:05pm)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jon Aldred, David Richardson

OTHERS PRESENT: Joe Valentine, Assistant City Manager

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Quetell, Support by Whitteaker to approve the agenda as submitted.
Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

Motion by Quetell, Support by Rudofski to approve the minutes of May 10, 2022 with the correction that Mark Zachos was listed as both present and absent and should be listed as absent.

Motion carried unanimously

AGENDA ITEMS

Review and discuss committee member ideas and rankings for developing objectives

Chairperson Strickfaden reviewed the scoring matrix and indicated it needed to be completed and welcomed ideas from the committee.

Member Paluzzi suggested combining some existing topics under ordinance changes to include EV charging infrastructure, Michigan native plants and building ordinances.

Chairperson Strickfaden explained they can be broader than just policy changes and could still be included separately for this reason.

Member Paluzzi expressed his desire to focus on things that impact people's lives daily and suggested a higher ranking for projection mapping as a higher priority.

Member Whitteaker offered to share information on the D Electricity program occurring downtown.

The Assistant City Manager indicated he will reach out to those members that did not provide complete scoring and those that have not yet submitted their scores to try and receive full participation.

Chairperson Strickfaden identified the top 5 projects based on current scoring and suggested focusing on these items.

Member deWit questioned the opportunity for community gardens at City properties, faith-based organizations and densely populated areas such as apartment complexes.

Member Zachos questioned the maintenance needs in support of this effort.

Member deWit indicated the intent would be to have volunteer support with organizations such as Bees in the D. The idea would be that the City would maintain the structures and the community maintains the beds.

Member Quetell indicated West Bloomfield has a good community garden program, as well as, Rochester. She suggested mapping city owned property and overlaying density and economic data to determine the best locations.

Member Quetell inquired about gather community engagement prior to finalizing the committee's list to send to City Council. The committee was open the idea and plans to discuss it further.

Member Whitteaker inquired about obtaining a list of organizations that are currently operating community gardens.

The committee focused their discussion on the top ranked priorities, which included Funding EV charging stations, policy and ordinance audits, and a pollinator program.

The committee concluded that the State is working on a comprehensive model to fund and locate EV charging stations and the committee should wait until the State's program is available to proceed so the City's efforts are coordinated.

The committee discussed what could be included in a policy and ordinance audit. They suggested it could include such things as energy utilization, water and stormwater, renewable energy, EV charger requirements. They discussed reviewing sample ordinances and acknowledged implementing ordinance changes would easily institutionalize changes that would continue into the future. They also discussed reviewing energy use and carbon audits on city properties, as well as, private property to assist residents. They further discussed working with utility companies to target low income areas and provide education to multifamily apartment units.

The committee discussed the pollinator program and acknowledged further details were needed. They discussed an education program around pollinators, bee identification and considered partnering with the Friends of the Rouge, Clinton River Watershed Council, Tollgate Farms (MSU) and utilize existing resources. They also discussed exploring corporate partnership opportunities for the program.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Strickfaden adjourned the meeting at 8:03 pm.

Minutes drafted by: Joe Valentine for Secretary deWit.