

1 **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
2 **Thursday, December 9, 2021 – 5:30 P.M.**  
3 **REMOTE ACCESS MEETING**

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5 **ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER**

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7 Chairman Melanie Rummel called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. Aldermen  
8 Jim Preschlack and Eileen Weber were present.  
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10 Staff in attendance included Mike Strong, Assistant City Manager; Cathy  
11 Czerniak, Director of Community Development; Michael Thomas, Director of  
12 Public Works; Chuck Myers, Superintendent of Parks and Forestry; Jim Lockefefer,  
13 Assistant to the Director of Public Works; and Layla Werner, Management Analyst  
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15 Also in attendance was Mark Pruitt, Consultant.  
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17 There were no members of the public that attended the meeting remotely.  
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19 Chairman Rummel made the following statement as required by the Open  
20 Meetings Act. In accordance with state statute, Chairman Rummel has made a  
21 determination that it was not practical or prudent to schedule an in-person  
22 Committee meeting because of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is why this  
23 December 9, 2021, Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting is being held  
24 remotely.  
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26 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

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28 **I. REVIEW OF COMMUNICATIONS EFFORTS RELATED TO ENVIRONMENTAL**  
29 **INITIATIVES** – Layla Werner, Management Analyst  
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31 Management Analyst, Layla Werner, provided an update to the  
32 communications campaign, which was launched in September of 2021.  
33 Ms. Werner discussed the different platforms utilized for this campaign  
34 including the dialogue, the website, and social media. She further  
35 provided examples of each platform, including the Environmental  
36 Sustainability page on the city website, the dedicated sustainability page  
37 in the Dialogue, and the Sustainability Sunday social media campaign.  
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39 The Committee provided extensive feedback regarding the layout of the  
40 webpage, future initiatives, and the overall goal of the campaign.  
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42 Chairman Rummel asked if there were any additional comments from the  
43 Committee.  
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45 The Committee provided additional feedback regarding promoting  
46 current recycling initiatives that are available to residents.  
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48 Additionally, there was discussion regarding the analytics of those  
49 reached via the communications campaign.

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51 Chairman Rummel asked if there were any additional questions or  
52 comments from the Committee or members of the public.

53  
54 Seeing none, she moved to the next agenda item.

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56 **II. UPDATE ON GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR LAKE FRONT AT FOREST PARK BEACH**  
57 – Mike Strong, Assistant City Manager

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59 Assistant City Manager, Mike Strong, provided a brief update to the  
60 Committee, regarding a water quality structure that would be placed at  
61 Forest Park Beach, called a Marina Trash Skimmer (MTS). He further  
62 explained where the MTS would be placed, and the environmental  
63 benefits such as skimming oil sheen from the water, and other plastic and  
64 debris in the water. MR. Strong stated that staff currently manually cleans  
65 the water, however, the MTS would allow this to be a more seamless and  
66 efficient process.

67  
68 Chairman Rummel asked if there were any comments or questions from  
69 the Committee.

70  
71 Chairman Rummel asked if there were any questions or comments from  
72 members of the public.

73  
74 Seeing none, she moved to the next agenda item.

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76 At this time, Chairman Rummel asked Assistant City Manager, Mike Strong  
77 to provide an update on the EV charging station.

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79 Mr. Strong provided a brief overview of the January – September 2021  
80 data for the EV charging stations. He stated that since this report only  
81 compiled data through September, it would not include information from  
82 the new station at Old Elm. The report included, where the most usage is,  
83 and how frequently a station is being utilized.

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85 The Committee members asked clarifying questions regarding usage, and  
86 where the user is from. Additionally, there were questions regarding the  
87 rates of electricity, and incentives for residents with electric vehicles.

88  
89 Chairman Rummel asked if there were any comments or questions from  
90 the Committee.

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92 Seeing none, she asked if there were any questions or comments from  
93 members of the public.

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95 Seeing none, she moved to the next agenda item.

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**ACTION ITEMS**

**I. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 20, 2021, MEETING MINUTES**

Alderman Weber moved to approve the October 20, 2021, Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting minutes subject to changes discussed by the Committee. Alderman Preschlack seconded the motion. The following voted "Aye": Chairman Rummel, Aldermen Preschlack and Weber. The following voted "Nay": None. 3-Ayes, 0 Nays, motion carried.

**II. APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING CALENDAR FOR 2022**

Assistant City Manager, Mike Strong, explained the process for approving the calendar, stating that, if necessary, meetings can be moved or rescheduled when given proper notice.

The Committee discussed meeting dates, and what the frequency of the dates should be.

Alderman Preschlack made a motion to approve the regular meeting calendar for 2022, Alderman Weber seconded the motion. The following voted "Aye": Chairman Rummel, Aldermen Preschlack and Weber. The following voted "Nay": None. 3-Ayes, 0 Nays, motion carried.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**I. DISCUSSION ON NEW SOLAR GENERATION FACILITIES ON CITY FACILITIES – Mike Strong, Assistant City Manager**

Assistant City Manager, Mike Strong updated the Committee regarding solar generation facilities. Mr. Strong explained the process including analyzing feasibility, site selection, the solicitation process, franchise accounts, and final contract approval. Mr. Strong provided an in depth analysis of all of the identified locations, and the feasibility when choosing which site to move forward with.

The Committee had lengthy discussion regarding the facilities identified, and how this coincided with the capital budget.

Additionally, there was discussion regarding the strategic management of upgrading equipment as necessary.

Chairman Rummel asked if there were any additional questions or comments from the Committee or members of the public.

Seeing none, she moved to the next agenda item.

**II. DISCUSSION ON SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES & PRIORITIES – Mike Strong, Assistant City Manager**

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Chairman Rummel provided a brief background on this item, explaining the Committee would have more in-depth discussions on this item at future committee dates.

The Committee had lengthy discussion regarding specific initiatives that were prioritized by the group. This list included greenhouse gas emissions and air quality, recycling initiatives, water quality, and natural land management.

The Committee had additional discussion about capacity to manage and complete project priorities.

Further director was provided to staff to investigate the priorities and present findings later, regarding a timeline to project completion.

Chairman Rummel asked if there were any additional questions or comments from the Committee or members of the public.

Seeing none, she moved to the next agenda item.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Rummel asked if there were any public comments on any non-agenda items.

Seeing none, Chairman Rummel moved to the next agenda item.

**NEXT MEETING DATE(S)**

Assistant City Manager, Mike Strong stated that the next meeting would be scheduled for January 2022.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Preschlack moved to adjourn the meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Committee at 6:52 P.M. seconded by Weber. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Layla Werner  
Management Analyst

Reviewed by,

Mike Strong  
Assistant City Manager