

CITY OF HUNTINGTON WOODS  
MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
**April 21, 2022**  
7:00 p.m.  
City Hall

Chairperson : Ben Falik called the Meeting to order at 7:12pm

**PRESENT:** Ben Falik (Chairperson), Daniel Brooks, Mari Masalin-Cooper (Secretary), Sarah Jo Sautter, Sean Kristl

**ABSENT:** Kate Zenlea (excused), Betsy Zobi-Tar, David (Michael) Egan,  
Commissioner: Michelle Elder

City Staff Present: City Manager Wilson, Parks & Recreation, Lauren Fletcher

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved Chair: Ben Falik and seconded by Mari Cooper to approve the April 21,2022 agenda as presented: Unanimous. **The Motion Carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Chair: Ben Falik and seconded by Mari Cooperto approve the February 24, 2022 Minutes as presented: Unanimous. The Motion Carried

**Public Participation on Items not on the Agenda** –

- About Zoom, State has revoked the Zoom requirement and Zoom Committee members can join via Zoom but cannot vote or make motion. Essentially Committee members working

**Committee Goals** - Missions Statement (May Agenda item). Mari brought Missions Statement Questionnaires for all members to complete and forwarded to Chris Wilson to have him compile for our next meeting. Sean: would add a review of what we do today and what we want to do. Committee agreed.

**Media Communication Schedule:** (May Agenda item) Lauren: June 3rd is the DPW deadline - for the Fall Hometown Town Herald - Ben will ask Amy Hood DPW if we can use any of the Herald space. Lauren: city has moved to 3 not 4 issues annually, Spring/Fall is not combined. Mari - Need to find a shared work space for the Committee and the City. Daniel will send instructions on conversions. Lauren will provide the publication deadlines for the various city publications online and hardcopy. Sarah Jo - updated the Google Doc ESC Calendar and resent to new members. Sean - will commit to bringing the information blasts for every meeting; Lauren- Create a Group for ESC for the HW Facebook - Ben/Sarah Jo do not have the bandwidth to keep up posts on something like this. Hal S. - City will be announcing a Environmental Sustainability Master Plan. Chris W. City will have, as of July 2022, a full-time communication director. Take as many weeks with news and messages as we can for our next meeting.

**Solar ordinance Follow-up:** (May agenda item) City update to the Solar Panel - Will allow side and rear panels. No change in the front facing changes, must go through the ZBA for approval. Back and side panels just submit a site plan. Front facing panels would go to the ZBA would have to show a “practical difficulty.” Daniel - large change to the last ordinance because the South facing homes can go before the ZBA, instead of the Planning Commission like earlier HW residents requesting to add solar panels.

- Chris W. The city will track and record requests/approvals for front facing panels for a few years. If it is overwhelmingly in favor of allowing front facing panels, it is likely the City Commission will approve a change to the ordinance that does not require ZBA review.

**Motion by Daniel Brooks to:** Approve the Solar Panel ordinance language change as written and presented by Chris Wilson. **Seconded by Sean Kristl. Approved: unanimously.**

Chris thinks new ordinance language will be on the next City Commission agenda in May.

**City Lighting Follow-up-** (Add: Agenda item for several meetings) City has not signed the DTW contract for the LED lights. Working with a EPE 3rd party to review our electricity usage. DG Energy does citywide lighting upgrades, manage the interal lighting portfolios. DTE owns our lighting poles and there may be some issues, but this 3rd party maintenance will allow the city to make lighting change. This company owns the bulbs. Following up this option. City Commission has not pushed on signing the DTE proposal and not likely to at this time. Daniel Brooks would like to know the color temps of proposed bulbs.

### **Public Participation**

Hal Stack, 13116 Talbot, It took 4 yrs to make a solar panel ordinance change. Pointed out the ESC should also be to facilitating and encouraging solar energy in the homes in the city.

**Committee Member Remarks**

Mari Cooper – Will invite Erin Quetell, Oakland County Environmental Sustainability Director to speak at our May 19<sup>th</sup> or June 23<sup>rd</sup> to speak to the ESC about the county sustainability goals and services. If she accepts our invitation we will place her at the beginning of the agenda.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion to Adjourn by:**

**The Motion Carried, meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by,

Mari Cooper  
Secretary