

CITY OF HUNTINGTON WOODS
MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
May 19, 2022
7:00 p.m.
City Hall

CALL TO ORDER:

Secretary: Mari Masalin-Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:06pm

PRESENT: Daniel Brooks, Mari Masalin-Cooper (Secretary), Sarah Jo Sautter, Sean Kristl, Kate Zenlea, Betsy Zobi-Tar, Rachel Pollack, Hal Stack (13108 Talbot)
City Staff Present: City Manager Wilson

ABSENT: Ben Falik (excused), David (Michael) Egan (excused), Commissioner:
Michelle Elder

City Staff: Lauren Fletcher (excused)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Daniel Brooks moved to accept the May 19, 2020. Mari Masalin-Cooper requested an amendment to the Agenda to welcome new member Rachel Pollack. Daniel Brooks moved to accept the Agenda with the amendment to welcome Rachel Pollock. Seconded by Betsy Zobi-Tar as amended. Vote: Unanimous. **The Motion Carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Daniel Brooks moved to accept the April 22, 2022 minutes without change. Motion Seconded by Betsy Zobi-Tar. Vote: Unanimous. **The Motion Carried**

NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTION:

- Committee members welcomed their newest member: Rachel Pollack

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA –

- None

PRESENTATION FORM ERIN QUINTREL, OAKLAND COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER

- Erin presented a slide presentation to the committee. She outlined for us what Oakland County is hoping to achieve with this position. Her Power Point will be posted with ESC May Minutes on the Huntington Woods website.

Discussion:

- Sean – How will Oakland county bring the county ideas to local communities?
Erin – Doing a lot of fact finding right now. Also, working with a lot of national stakeholders to get a foothold on best practices and resources. HW is probably looking at some ideas to change polices and ordinances that reflect sustainability. Oakland County is considering becoming a “Watertown County” – first one, to participate in their important environmental work.
- Erin: SEMCOG is doing their carbon footprint, a very high level. Erin suggested HW wait for this report before trying to complete HW’s own report. Jennifer Whitaker government rep for HW at DTE. Chris W. confirmed.
- Kate: what are the funding streams? Erin, lots funds for water from the state. Some funds from Oakland County and various grants. Is a HW a working with the Watertown? Mari: We worked with Watertown in the past, pre-pandemic. .
- Erin Q. suggested the following organizations that could provide resources to HW: Erb Family Foundation for funding residential. Oakland County is looking at providing rebates on lighting, HVAC system, electric vehicle funding. Michigan Saves may have grants for individual residents. Jim Nash Oakland county water commissioner - Looking at new storm water ordinances for the county and local communities.
- Erin Q. As you start to think about what the ESC might present the city as environmental sustainability priorities would we send them to Erin? She would provide feedback on best practices and would like to track our progress.
- Resident Hal Stack, 13108 Talbot: How can we share best practices? Could the county create model ordinances, and look at what is working in other communities and communicate it out? Erin W, that is one of our goals.

MISSION STATEMENT:

1. Proposed: Our mission is to be an environmental sustainability resource and advance policies and programs that conserve resources protect and environment and safeguard our climate for the long-term health and wellness of the Huntington Woods Community.
 2. Proposed: The mission of the ESC is to improve, enhance, and preserve the environment: and to promote HW long term environmental sustainability through advancing community education, city policies and environmental sustainability goals.
- Proposed mission statement # 2 will be reviewed by the Committee and discussed at the June, 2022 meeting. (Add to the agenda)

Future discussion about: HW Website ESC (actually EAC) information statement about the committee: ESC should review:

URL of this statement: https://www.ci.huntington-woods.mi.us/government/boards_commissions/environmental_advisory_committee/index.php

The Environmental Sustainability Committee (formerly known as the Environmental Advisory Committee) studies environmental issues and makes recommendations to the City Commission on their implementation. Committee members volunteer their time to carry out recommended projects. This committee generally meets on the third Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at the Library. The ESC has done work in, among other things, solid waste (recycling and expansion of yard waste), energy conservation (promoting energy audits, workshops on easy ways to save energy and money), sustainability, expansion of safe biking (recommended to the Commission to paint Sharows on city streets well known as bike routes), water conservation (bi-annual rain barrel sales). They look to expand into other environmental issues such as promoting NO IDLING within the city. They are always open to new ideas and directions.
Energy Vision Statement

MEDIA COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE: (May Agenda item) Tabled until June

NO MOW MAY – (Add agenda item, June)

- Provide early food for early pollinators. Will discuss City Commission adoption at the June meeting. Sarah Jo: let's talk about stop spraying with fertilizers and pesticides. Daniel B: signs for No Mow May, present to the commission what it is why.
- Discussion about city spraying the City Hall lawn. Members were concerned because the City does not spray public areas. Chris will find out why the city is spraying

SOLAR ORDINANCE FOLLOW-UP:

- Chris said the City Commissions on June 7th do a Public Hearing, July 5th is the 1st reading, August 16th is the 2nd reading and possible City Commission vote and adoption.

CITY LIGHTING FOLLOW-UP

- DTE is doing an assessment of public building lighting. External lighting on the city campus and will come up with a proposal. Street lighting is not part of their assessment. DTE owns all street lights. Still pursuing information on street light pollution and light temperatures.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Hal Stack, 13108 Talbot – City buying a new pick-up truck, can it be an electric truck? Chris will find out if the city needs are compatible to the Ford electric pick-up, report next meeting.

COMMITTEE MEMBER REMARKS

- Chris Wilson: Juneteenth, June 23, 2022 – Family events, information, and speakers
- 4th of July Fireworks: Friday, July 1st fireworks – city is paying for them and some men’s club reimbursement. You can see them on the streets around Rackham Golf Course.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn: Daniel Brooks, Second: by Sarah Jo Sautter: Vote: Unanimous

Adjourn by: 8:53pm

Respectfully submitted by,

Mari Cooper
Secretary