

Sustainability Commission April 17th, 2023

4:02 meeting called to order

Motion to approve minutes

John motion, Jeff second

Present:

Andrea Parton

Mike Stauss

Paul Barrs

Pam Bliss

Jamie Hasemeier

Todd Rehg

Elizabeth Schappe

Jeff Tomich

John Hickey

Karla Armbruster

Visitor: WGHS intern-Karsen K

Old Business

Staff liaison Todd Rehg update

Complete Streets?- Safe Streets and Roads for All

- resolution vs ordinance
- if passed as resolution when issues arise
- ZERO deaths-goal
- grant due July 10, 2023
- Reword on page 3 Dr. Peoples
- Any resistance? Staff concerns- diverting funds, community -share info to webster groves about why and importance-collect and share stats with community

SIUE engagement

- Has to make its way onto a work session agenda
- Probably won't happen until July since several sessions will be on budgeting
- Todd will work with Dr. Peoples to get it on the calendar

Green Space collaboration

- Speaker series
- Mr. Hayes, sustainability at middle school
- Mosquitoes Talk, Jean Ponzi, focus on why fogging is bad for health- WG does not fog anymore-city ordinance, only fog if carrying diseases
- Brainstorm ideas for speakers we know:
(Everyone, please start to think more about this)

- Solar?
- Benefits from IRA that residents can tap into?
- Mosquitoes again?
- Speaker in June?
- Elizabeth Professor, will reach out to Mark M an Ecologist at Wash U Health and Climate change.
- Jenny went to U City accountant point source pollution
- ESG investing, Ed R??- clean energy US BANK- biggest bank investing in clean energy John and Jamie get together and reach out
- John H- ideas speaker on residential solar-GROW SOLAR program, someone to talk ins and outs of electric charging in homes/residents, -1,000 incentive rebate EMILY ANDREWS, Have more permanent place or more info on our website-how to's
- Recording speaker series? Out of library and into location DEMOCRATIC CLUB-record and/or zoom (Sheri wolverson-sp?) or space at Webster U-schedule speakers first
- Water quality- what happens with what we spray in our yards- 3rd Thursday of the month Danelle- April 20, 2023 at Library
- Email- look for attendance at speaker events Jamie will email dates
- Stormwater management plan
- Met last Friday, all in agreement we're going with Intuition and Logic
- Jamie meeting with Councilman Emerson Smith to partner with North Webster community

Council member Pam Bliss update

- Mara will meet next week about Business
- May 17, GDA rep come

Traffic Advisory Collaboration

- Discussed complete streets, How do we define them in the context of WG?
- Establish some guiding principles
- Do a literature review?
- How to move forward to craft something we can recommend to the community?
- Next meeting March 9, 2023
- Paul, Jeff, Elizabeth on this subcommittee

Webster on Wheels **WOW**

- First Sunday in May: May 7, 2023
- Set up 12:30 end around 4:30
- VOLUNTEERS needed, high schoolers -Jamie will connect with WGHS intern Karsen
- Similar format as last year- sustainable as possible
- Dave has asked if we would cosponsor again
- Might get better ridership with nominal fee
- Paul will make a sign up sheet please try to commit an hr
- Paul will check with Dave about fliers on social media -sprockets? Circulate fliers
- Bob will be present, bags

- Ideas on how to engage/educate- will have info QR codes?
- B-Works could potentially bring bikes
- Paul will say a little something that day, THANK YOU

Hixson sustainability class

- Mara, Jamie, Karla will be meeting with Mr. Hayes's students next week

New Business

Solar

- Charging stations throughout the city -can use ARPA money for this? Match to grant
- Dr. Peoples, Jamie, and Pam worked through dollar amount for priorities for Forever Webster Groves
- \$100,000- intern for benchmarking greenhouse gas emissions \$5,200 Pam and Jeff-narrowed down
- City Hall getting an understanding of what barriers are in the way for residents
- Some neighborhood specific things have come up
- Mayor Arnold speaking with Mara Perry to smooth out any issues
- Would like to continue participating in Grow Solar program
 - Mostly community outreach
 - Do we have a deadline to commit by?
 - Jamie will follow up with Kat
 - Elevate our businesses to promote

Green Dining Alliance

- ARPA, Dr Peoples, Jamie, and Pam worked through dollar amount for priorities for Forever Webster Groves
- \$100,000- intern for benchmarking greenhouse gas emissions \$5,200 Pam and Jeff-narrowed down ARPA funds-must be Dec 31, 2025 (green dining effort)
- Jamie and Mara met with Eric Peterson who is the staff liaison for the BDC
 - Supportive and getting us access to a list of foodservice businesses in Webster
 - He requested an action plan to share with the BDC by March 23
 - Suggested microgrants from the city
 - Meeting with Ben Daugherty, the GDA program coordinator, to talk through some more details
 - Making whole city a Green Dining District might be challenging
- Large Yard Sale
- One weekend for residents
- Public Works yard sale in April
- Midwest Climate Summit
- A lot of other cities' folks are overwhelmed by low capacity to process government funding
- Earth Month
- List of 10 things people can do to help the earth
 - Elizabeth will work on this

- Any other fun easy things to do
- Tree canopy survey -survey contact Collinsville, IL

Storm Water Working with Green Space Commission

- Todd updated from 2008-Thank you
- \$151,260 stormwater management plan
- Do we say all funds to stormwater management, or focus other efforts and reprioritize.
- Thoughts? Spend all on stormwater management, how much of the 2002 plan is unimplemented? 40 projects still in progress- would rather see funds to go those issues
- cost changes but still storm water issues-going to updated it, add to it, send out questionnaire to residents to address concerns
- Actually implement projects already in progress
- Pam Bliss- given flooding this year, flood maps have changed, and Green Space spoke about managing stormwater with no updated info.
- maybe allocate our commissions \$90,000 and ask if still priority with green space for money
- John question- rather implement and do something with rest of funds instead of research and studies
- Let's look at the sweep of options, no money, FEMA SEMA (sp?) have we heard, Pam mentioned looking into purchasing houses on Deer Creek.
- Bottom line- no money on another study, but we feel comfortable with this amount
- Jamie- will send money plans out for budget (like green dining) and want to be with them long term, not just one and done event

STORMWATER PLAN: (How do we want to spend money?)

- John- my thinking is we have lots of ideas with no dollar amounts, would be helpful to look at the ideas and evaluate each one. Find out what's been dropped? What's your priorities? What would give us most c02
- Elizabeth- No money on updated plans-look at worst flooding areas and go from there
- Look at smaller ticketed items, donate a portion
- MUST spend by June 30, 2023 or goes back into ARP fund
- People want info from this plan, where is money going, would like a better sense of what we would do with the money with the study
- John H, Ideal way to use money would be give out grants to residents
- Mike- please don't spend money, use plan we already have
- Jamie allocate some funds, example \$25,000
- Jeff, spend on action; not a plan
- Who would be using the info and what will they do with it
- Andrea we recommend to council we need this money to keep and discuss how can we be the most impactful

Next meeting...May 17, 2023

For next agenda:

- Residential code for EV readiness before MO legislature takes this up
 - Planning commission
 - Jamie will reach out to Mara

Meeting adjourned 5:25 pm, motion by Karla, seconded by Jeff

FOLLOW up email: from Jamie about solar access and IRA solar-bration in June around summer solstice- will ask for help with ideas and volunteers for sub committee

Todd need sub committee-complete GSAC traffic and Sus

Volunteer sign up for WOW?