



Energy and Sustainability Task Force Minutes

February 2, 2023 4:00pm

201 South Holden St.

Warrensburg School District R-VI Central Office

Attendees: Bruce Uhler, Steve Granger, Jeremiah Robison, Terry Vair, Phil Adlich, Kathy Strickland, Enrico Villegas, Phil Miller, Christine Lichte

Call to Order by Bruce Uhler 4:02 PM

Previous meeting minutes approved. The motion was presented by Jeremiah Robison, and seconded by Phil Adlich.

Kathy Strickland provided an update on the tree board and the tree city application. The tree city application was submitted in time (by Jan 31) and we have a budget for the tree board left over from the city budget. We need to look into recruiting more people for the duties of the tree board as there is more work involved. The Tree Board is supposed to approve the planting of trees on city property and serve in an advisory role for the community. Last year \$59,473 was spent on tree maintenance, 19,337 is the population of Warrensburg equaling \$3.08 per capita. This meets the \$2 per capita threshold to continue to be a tree city, as we have for the past 12 years. A discussion occurred on whether we need to absorb the tree board into the Energy and Sustainability Task Force, but we would have to amend the city ordinance.

The city of Warrensburg is interested in pursuing the master tree plan for the city and utilizing the tree board. A good addition to the tree board would be an arborist and the city is looking at training one of its staff as an arborist.

A decision will be made on the status of the tree board once we determine how many people would be interested in keeping it going and would actively participate.

Phil Miller led a discussion concerning voting members of the task force. When this Task Force was started, rules were written into the ordinance to establish the number of voting members and limitations on who can be voting members. The current rule is that the voting members must have a zip code of 64093. Non-voting members do not have to reside within the zip code. A discussion ensued on whether or not we should change this rule to include folks who may have an interest and skills to be included even if they do not reside within the zip code. This will be discussed further in the next meeting.

Discussion about Vice Chair. According to the ordinance, we are supposed to have a vice chair for this committee. This discussion and nomination will continue next month.



Terry Vair led us in a conversation related to unhoused individuals, those who do not have a permanent residence. Terry has experience working with homeless individuals in Columbia, MO. He was in charge of the basic needs committee which focused on housing, food, and clothing. The homeless population in Warrensburg is increasing because of the shelters we have. Terry was curious if this Task Force could help with this issue or if it was related to this task force in any way. It is likely that a liaison from this group could sit on another local board working to address this issue. It was mentioned that Terry might be the best representative from this task force to work with local homeless organizations.

Some items that should be considered to address the unhoused population would be the adoption of an ordinance that makes it illegal for landlords to refuse someone who uses a voucher to pay for housing. As of now, this is not a protected category in the City of Warrensburg. Additionally, the city may look at a resource center/warming house available from 8 am – 5 pm which are approximately the hours the shelters are closed each day.

UCM recycling update: UCM recently placed three large containers on campus for recycling as part of their contract with GFL. These containers are single-stream and accept all recyclables except for glass. The university pays per pull for each container. Custodial staff on campus are responsible for collecting and delivering this material to the three containers. This information will be presented to a larger audience in April during Earth Week. Starting in Fall 2023 each student will have their own recycling bin available in their dorm rooms.

By next month the Facebook page should be created by Bruce and we can utilize it to present this information to a greater audience of community members.

Discussion ensued about who would be interested in presenting to the city council what this Task Force is working on. This presentation is tentatively planned for March 20, 2023.

Meeting Adjourned 5:13