



**Energy and Sustainability Task Force Minutes  
March 2, 2023, 4:00 pm**

201 South Holden St.

Warrensburg School District R-VI Central Office

Attendees: Bruce Uhler, Beth Rutt, Steve Granger, Jeremiah Robison, Aubrey Binder, Kaitie Correll, Phil Miller, Jan Jones, Tom Emerson, Kathy Strickland, Barb Rhodes

Minutes approved as presented.

Agenda adopted pending correction of date.

Call to Order by Bruce Uhler 4:00 PM

Kath Strickland updated us about the Tree Board and Tree City Renewal Application to the Arbor Day Foundation: The application was submitted and is being processed. The Warrensburg Mayoral proclamation will be Saturday, April 22, during Earth Day at the UCM "Prussing" Farm. We are currently working on becoming a tree campus at the University and are gathering the team to make that possible. We are currently working on re-establishing the tree trail at UCM as well. Christine Lichte audited the trail this past week and is working with Mark Goodwin to determine what tree signs need to be replaced.

A discussion ensued on whether or not the tree board should stand alone or be absorbed by this committee. The city of Warrensburg has taken over city park maintenance and is intent on training one of its staff members to become a certified arborist. Kathy Strickland is looking to assist with submitting a TRIM grant which could financially assist with certifying the arborist. Former members of the tree board are no longer interested in participating on the board or are no longer eligible to be voting members. Beth mentioned encouraging a staff member from Parks and Rec to be involved in the tree board as well.

Motion to approve the tree board as a subcommittee proposed by Kathy Strickland. Approved by Steve Grainger, seconded by Jeremiah Robison. Motion approved.

Earth Day at the farm. Phil Miller talked about various events that will occur. Animal pelts, live music, vendors, and electric vehicles will be on site. Mark Goodwin plans to bring native plants to the Earth Day event also.

Committee zip code revisited. In order to be a voting member according to the committee rules, you must reside within the 64093 zip code. The determination is to revisit this in the future if a member outside of the zip code is interested in becoming a voting member.

Bruce Uhler discussed Key Performance Indicators as they relate to the sustainability plan. He is looking at data available from 2019 to determine if we are improving in energy efficiency and determine if we are moving in the right direction. This would be incorporated into the sustainability plan for the city. The city is about 15 months away from adopting a sustainability plan which gives us just enough time to develop a plan and make recommendations. There are 10 sections under SDG number 11 from the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030. We will look to divide that work amongst the members to make this possible. This discussion will be revisited during the next meeting. Aubrey mentioned that we need to make this a priority and demonstrate how we can align the individual efforts across the table. Beth Rutt suggested that there needs to be a committed staff member from the City of Warrensburg that sits on this committee and can take the lead on this project. It is important to find someone who can work on this within the duties of their role. Enrico is likely the best person to drive these efforts. Bruce intends to speak with the City Manager to discuss the possibility of allowing a full time person to work on this.

Steve Grainger was nominated and approved as the Task Force Vice Chairman. Motion presented by Kathy Seconded by Aubrey. All members voted in favor.

(POINT-IN-TIME COUNT – from HUD

Continuums of Care (CoCs) are required to conduct a Point-in-Time (PIT) count of people experiencing homelessness at least every other year. CoCs are also required to conduct an annual Housing Inventory Count (HIC), documenting the residential resources in their community dedicated to assisting people experiencing homelessness.)

*We found 29 individuals that we interviewed on the street, Journey Home had 13 in the shelter and 5 in transitional living, Survival House had 12 in the shelter and I am still waiting for Refuge on Ming Street's final numbers for the night of the PIT. I assume they had a full house of 20. If I am correct about Refuge's numbers that would put the PIT count for Johnson County at 79.*

*Melissa Werner, Journey Home*

The unhoused report above was received by Bruce Uhler. PIT survey Point-in-Time count. Journey Home is the lead agency for the Warrensburg PIT and the survey is always done on the last Wednesday in January. Several unhoused declined to be interviewed. Additional information showed 12 at the mobile home park South of the cemetery, and another 11-12 in the woods. Some of them refused to be counted. Many of our homeless are scattered - they are not all in one encampment where you can go and get them all counted. Last year it was estimated to be around 150. However, these numbers do not include people who may change their shelter location rapidly e.g. couch surfing. In conclusion, these numbers are likely much higher than what is gathered through these informal surveys.

Steve Granger passed out an informational paper that shows resources for unhoused people in Warrensburg so that this information is widely known amongst those in need. Steve and Beth will work together to create a comprehensive list and then get this published on our new Facebook Page. It is known that surrounding communities are sending unhoused folks here.

A discussion ensued about whether this topic should be addressed under sustainability. Potentially creating an additional subcommittee that relates directly to this issue.

Aubrey Binder discussed the survey she and her students drafted and the task force provided feedback. She is wanting to keep the survey between 10 and 15 questions. Once completed we will distribute this through Facebook groups and during Earth Week on campus and in the City.

Bruce Uhler is working on the establishment of the Facebook page.

Phil Miller talked with two businesses near 50 highway and both were interested in Tesla fast chargers.

Meeting Adjourned 5:23