



Energy and Sustainability Task Force Minutes

October 6, 2022

9:30 am

201 South Holden St.

Warrensburg School District R-VI Central Office

Members in attendance

Bruce Uhler, Chairman

Phil Miller

Steve Granger

Kathy Strickland

Lyle Kriesel

Beth Rutt

Others in attendance

Jodi Schneider, City Clerk

Enrico Villegas, Public Works Director

Call to Order by Bruce Uhler

Previous Meeting Minutes of August 4, 2022

Motion to approve as presented, by Beth Rutt, seconded by Steve Granger.

Everyone attending was thanked for their participation and interest, mentioning that the Task Force is the City's primary sounding board and sustainability group to present ideas and proposals to the city for consideration.

City EV and Renewables Direct Program – City Update

Enrico Villegas gave a brief overview of the city looking at possibly acquiring 5-10% of the City Vehicles as EV (electric vehicles), in the future on a path toward sustainability.

A short discussion on the renewables direct program from which Warrensburg has contracted 50% of its power from wind energy.

<https://www.evergy.com/smart-energy/renewable-resources-link/renewables-direct>

A short discussion of completing, and expanding a bike trail loop around the city led by Phil Miller. City works director was present and would be glad to listen to future proposals such as possibly having a bike trail near West Pine Street to West Park.

A short discussion of a tree tour on the UCM campus, old signs are missing. Led by Kathy Strickland

A short discussion of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals and in particular #11, Sustainable Cities and Communities". Discussion led by Bruce Uhler on small houses, benefits, and setting up a small house community that could benefit from low-income to retirees to sustainable living advocates. Perhaps there is grant money to help set this up. Bruce mentioned his previous company's work with meeting the SDGs will share links to the group on SDGs and specifically the #11 goal. It was discussed the need to establish a baseline Carbon Footprint for Warrensburg and UCM following Scope 1 carbon emissions reporting. Eg. "What gets measured gets done."

Group discussed the need for recycling and the good recycling centers in nearby cities. The city is preparing for early 2024 to issue a contract to a sanitation company that would include a recycling requirement.

Steve Granger discussed a Florida Community that came through Hurricane Ian in great shape and he will send an email to the committee with a link to the community.

Led by Steve Granger, formerly with Evergy, discussed EV charging stations, and how to facilitate energy infrastructure for the community and a Small House community. Need good planning from the beginning. Discussed the 30-year depreciation schedule for power infrastructure and its negative impact on future energy projects. Also discussed that going sustainable-green is not often about saving money on the front in the end but rather selling back-end benefits and long-term benefits.

Kathy Strickland discussed the “train is coming” on climate change and other sustainable needs. We need to get going to tackle the sustainability problems we face today.

Lyle Kriesel, with the school district, discussed all the things the Warrensburg School District has been doing for over 10 years on sustainability, reducing energy needs, replacing incandescent lighting with LEDs, greener facilities and future opportunities.

Phil Miller led a discussion about filling the vacant position on the Task Force and seeing if the Environmental Club director at WHS could fill one position, and if it necessitates changing the meeting time. It was decided to table any appointments suggestions until November. He also mentioned EV charging, Bike paths, Trane energy audit/management for the city. Phil has been one of the long-time drivers and advocates of sustainability in the area and the community will miss him greatly when he moves next summer.

Beth Rutt discussed UCM recycling and the need for it and saving 22 Pepsi recycling bins on campus. Perhaps the city could allow EV golf carts on the public streets and the sustainable benefits. Other future items to discuss would be recycling and composting projects.

Meeting was adjourned

Next meeting: November 3, 2022 - Thursday, 9:30 am*
 201 South Holden St.
 We will meet at the Warrensburg School District Central Office

*Could be changed to better accommodate members to late afternoon, eg. 4:00pm