

Decorah Sustainability Commission Minutes

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

5:45 – 7:00 pm, In person and via Zoom

Members present: Jim Tripp, Aaron Detter, Molly McNicoll, Ann Mansfield, Jeremy Lietz, Jim Martin-Schramm, Jessie Joyner, Hailey Abbey

Not present: Michelle Barness, Mayor Borowski

Others present: Travis Goedken, Emily Neal, Alex Rosenow,

AGENDA

1. Call to order
 - a. Meeting called to order by Jim Martin-Schramm at 5:47 p.m.

2. Approval of October 2024 meeting minutes. (Attached to agenda email.)
 - a. Motion made by Jim Tripp to approve. Seconded by Ann Mansfield. Unanimously approved.

3. Updates
 - a. Future vacancy on commission: Jeremy Leitz
DSC members are encouraged to reach out to people who might be interested in serving.
 - b. Community forum on City Council's decision to hold a second MEU referendum: December/January. A date has not been set; the next vote is on March 4, 2025. Emily Neal; MEU resource allocation (advertising, education, people helping) will be a discussion topic at the next city council meeting. Alliant has started their campaign against it. We will need a city effort to provide education for the community.

4. Discussion Items

- a. [Revision of Sustainability Plan](#)

Review of Economic Development section draft - Jim Martin Schramm & Jessie Joyner

- Scoring matrix is a good idea, can we work into other areas
- ED 6 - add Winn. Co. Conservation Board

- ED 10 - Wellness center plays a role in Ec. Dev as well as Soc. Sust.
- ED 5 - Land use - Comprehensive plan land use
- Quarterly community forums and Wellness center is also in Soc. Sust. For reference - cross reference the overlap
- Relationship with Luther - overlap with SS and Comm. & Outreach
- Decorah Jobs - non profit owner of the business park via 28E agreement. Taxable valuation - city helps incentivize improvements/developments which increases taxes to the city
- Liked focus on local ownership
- ED9 - Local food - what is the collaboration? Make language more clear
- ED11 - Luther College - city mutual dependence should be highlighted; how can we help each other thrive?

Review of Energy and Climate section draft

- 40% reduction in greenhouse gases
- EC 2. - partners WED, Alliant; are they willing to work with us?
- EC 11. - have baseline from 2020, can we achieve 30% reduction? We will have another study in the coming year, will know if we're making progress
- Luther College & city collaboration is sort of an "umbrella" for much of this plan
- EC 4. Reducing household energy requirements - language?
- EC 5. ADU - Accessory dwelling units
- EC 7. Move up benchmark - electrify the city vehicle fleet
- EC 11. Carbon neutrality - can we move this up?
- EC 13. Define resilience
- EC 5. Overlap in Soc. Sust.
- EC 7. Rental housing access to EV charging - how?
- Rental housing - definition would be helpful.
- EC 11. Establish targets
- EC 4. DSC funds reduce household energy burden; incentivize efforts to reduce energy use
- ED 8. Overlap with EC7.
- EC 10. Greenhouse gas - provides information for EC 11.
- Vision is great!
- EC 3 - Environmental assessments need to be broader
- EV stations
- Review of Social Sustainability section draft (to be addressed during December 18 meeting)

- Review of Waste section draft (to be addressed during December 18 meeting)

5. Action Items

- a. [Fromm Email](#) re. [Sunflower Child Development and Discovery Center Funding Request](#) (\$10,000)

Discussion; DSC supported the Discovery Center interactive water table exhibit in the past (\$10K as a one time donation, asked Sunflower to come back annually if needed). They are making another request for this year. There is a current budget line for “childcare initiatives” which would include a request like this. Are there other childcare efforts that need support? Discussion; preference is for DSC funds to expand childcare capacity in our community. Jim Tripp moved to table this item, Aaron Detter seconded this motion. Jim Martin-Schramm will ask for some additional information from Stephanie Fromm.
Vote: Approved unanimously.

6. Other Business

7. Adjourn

- a. Motion made by Jim Tripp. Seconded by Molly McNicoll . Unanimously passed.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Minutes drafted by Ann Mansfield