



Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

6:00 PM

Meeting Held Via: Zoom

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call: Ralph Bicknese, Nicholas Frisella, Megan Hagerty Homa, Jonathan Spencer, Nancy Schick, Heidi Schoen. Staff present: Laura Miller.
- III. Public Comment: None
- IV. Approval of Minutes from the January 5, 2021 Meeting: Spencer made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Frisella. All in favor.
- V. Election of Sustainability Commission 2021 Chair, Vice Chair and Recording Secretary: The Commission welcomed new member Megan Hagerty Homa.

The commission determined positions would be held until December 2021.

A motion was made by Bicknese to nominate Schoen as Chair, seconded by Spencer. All in favor.

A motion was made by Schoen to nominate Spencer as Vice Chair, seconded by Schick. All in favor.

Staff will continue to take minutes for the commission.

- VI. Commission Presentation to City Council: Spencer reviewed the draft presentation to the Council (see attached).

Staff clarified in September of 2016 the City adopted the 2015 International Building Code, the 2015 International Residential Code and the 2015 International Fire Code. The City will not adopt the 2018 versions of the codes and will adopt the 2021 versions no sooner than 2022 along with the Energy Conservation Code.

Bicknese mentioned some things the City of St. Louis has done over the years and possibly consider for Maplewood

- Solar Ready Ordinance
- Electric Vehicle Ordinance for Residential Buildings
- Benchmarking Ordinance – benchmark energy performance and report to the city.
- Building Performance Standard Ordinance – city sets energy performance requirements to make improvements.

Bicknese mentioned the last two items may be too much for Maplewood.

- VII. Sustainability, Racial Equity Training: Schoen requested this item be kept as a placeholder to do more research about cost, time commitment and interest. Commission members shared their experience with training. Staff will see if there is funding for training. Schoen offered to do more research.
- VIII. Ameren Incentives and Rebates for Residential Homes and Apartments: Frisella reported Ameren is offering instant incentives or rebates for heating and cooling, energy efficiency lighting, and smart thermostats. Frisella will follow up with a list to the Commission. Pay As You Save (PAYS) - cuts the upfront cost of these energy-efficiency projects. Frisella mentioned that Spire has a similar program.
- IX. Old Business:
- Maplewood Environmentally-Preferred Purchasing Policy (EPPP): Staff reported that departments are reviewing. Suggested that once we receive feedback make suggested changes to the EPPP
 - Feasibility Study for Installation of Solar Panels on the Library: Staff reported that the engineers were at the library earlier in the day and expects a report in the coming weeks.
 - Rainscaping Grant is still not available online.
- X. New Business: Schoen asked the commission what they want to get out of the upcoming year and if there were any topics or subject matter experts to consider. Bicknese requested anything related to carbon reduction issues and energy saving that reduce the impact on the climate. Spencer suggested biodiversity.

Bicknese suggested dividing up the work to survey smaller communities and what they are doing related to sustainability.

- XI. Spencer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Schoen. Meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.

Maplewood Sustainability Commission

2020 Year in Review

Commission Details

Number of Meetings Held: 6

Position	Beginning of Year	End of Year
Staff	Brian Herr	Laura Miller
Chair	Jonathan Spencer	Jonathan Spencer
Member	Nancy Schick	Nancy Schick
Member	Heidi Schoen	Heidi Schoen
Member	Nick Frisella	Nick Frisella
Member	Ralph Bicknese	Ralph Bicknese
Member	Kathleen Nevins	Meghan Hagerty
Member	Andrew Wilson	(open)

Major Topics

Library Roof Solar Panels

A member from the Library Board notified us of a leak in the library's roof and potential roof replacement. We recommended that, as part of the replacement project, the City evaluate the feasibility of installing solar panels, using a light-colored roof material for replacement, and increasing the roof insulation to above the minimum code requirement limits. Upon later inspection of the roof, we learned that the leak was not such that replacement was necessary. We also learned that there was no funding mechanism for a project such as we had recommended; we suggest that the City make it a priority to establish such a mechanism.

EV Charging Station

The Commission would like the City to install a public electric vehicle (EV) charging station at the Marietta parking lot. This would both attract visitors to the Special Business District and help reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Adding a solar canopy in conjunction with the charger would further reduce GHG emissions. Ameren typically offers rebates to help defray costs of these installations.

Garage Forward Design

A Commission member gave a presentation about the negative societal impact of garage forward design. Though this style might be popular with suburban developers, replacing front porches with garages prevents spontaneous conversations among neighbors. We recommend Design & Review put community first when considering new development proposals.

Rainscaping/Native Plants

The Commission has been spreading the word about the benefits of native plants and stormwater mitigation through rainscaping. Stacy Arnold with the Deer Creek Watershed Alliance educated us about this and a cost-sharing program from the Missouri Botanical Garden for Maplewood landowners. One of our members also participated in Metropolitan Sewer District's similar grant program. Using native plants instead of exotics in landscaping restores the function of local ecosystems, providing services such as stormwater reduction to save money on infrastructure repairs.

Mosquito Spraying

Commission members have made connections with local conservation efforts to address mosquitos in the city. Mosquito dunks seem to be the best option and are available at the hardware store. Bats and purple martins are both effective at removing mosquitos, and houses are available online to encourage both to take up residence. Spraying has been found less effective in recent studies than other methods and is particularly concerning for local beekeepers and chicken farmers; calling St. Louis County to opt out does not seem to work.

Diversity

The Sustainability Commission recognizes its lack of diversity and supports the Council's efforts to remedy this. The Commission also recommended that the City recognize the second Monday of October as Indigenous People's Day. Maplewood is located on land formerly inhabited by the Kiikaapoi (Kickapoo), Wazhazhe Maⁿzhaⁿ (Osage), Myaamia (Miami), and Očeti Šakówiŋ (Great Sioux Nation).

Year Ahead

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program

The Commission worked with Great Rivers Environmental Law Center to draft an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program. Former City Manager Corcoran requested that we wait until a new manager was hired to bring this forward.

Climate Action Plan

The City of St. Louis recently adopted a Climate Action Plan. We suggest Maplewood do the same.

Updating City Building Codes

New building codes have more energy efficient guidelines. We recommend Maplewood update to the latest available.

Partnering With The Library

The Commission is looking forward to working with the Library to develop a sustainability series bringing in local experts to talk about topics such as urban biodiversity, composting, financial management, endangered species, household efficiency, and more.

Membership and Officers

We are still waiting on one more position to be filled. We intend to hold officer nominations to meet the Council's new guidelines as soon as possible.