

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

GreenStep Committee Members

FROM: Jason Ludwigson, Sustainability Coordinator

DATE: May 27th, 2021

RE: Meeting Minutes May 26th, 2021 4:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Jason Ludwigson, Bill Waller, Jim Nissen, Theresa O'Donnell, Michael Alfieri, Bob Spencer, Angie Boettcher

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Isabelle Morken, Meghan Steffes

GUESTS: None

MINUTES

1. It was the consensus of the committee to approve the minutes from the Mar. 3rd 2021 meeting.
2. The committee welcomed new member Bob Spencer. We reviewed the best practice actions from the Minnesota GreenSteps cities program.
3. The committee reviewed the solar savings report that was presented to the city council in April of 2021. The committee discussed the solar PV system proposal by iDeal energies for the Ice Arena. The committee agreed that the plan as proposed would be beneficial both financially and environmentally for the city. The committee voted by consensus to forward the proposal to the city attorney and council for review.
4. The committee discussed options for a beekeeping ordinance. No action was taken at this time.
5. The committee discussed plans proposed by Western Technical college landscape design students for rain garden areas at the entrance of the Veterans Park playground. Sustainability coordinator Jason Ludwigson will look into pricing for plants and technical specifications for the rain garden designs.
6. The committee was updated on the SolSmart Gold achievement for the City of La Crescent, the U of M Regional Sustainable Development Grant for a community food forest, and the Phase II EV changer grant from the MPCA and ZEF energy. Bob Spencer asked if part of the Phase II EV changer grant from the MPCA and ZEF energy could be directed to an EV charger installation at the Ice Arena. Sustainability coordinator Jason Ludwigson will follow up on Bob's question with ZEF energy.
7. Jason Ludwigson provided an update on the Partners in Energy and community outreach. It was suggested to include outreach to community churches for the Home Energy Squad programming this summer.
8. Coordination of volunteers for the MNDot Landscape Partnership Tree planting June 11th and the Veterans park prairie plantings June 17th were discussed. Volunteers from the GreenSteps committee, local service clubs, and Trane will help on these two dates.
9. The committee reviewed the adopt-a-drain program. The consensus of the committee was to recommend the adopt-a-drain program be added to a future city council agenda for approval.
10. Creation of a soak-it-up award and pollinator friendly landscape award were discussed. This will be an agenda item for a future Green Steps meeting.
9. The meeting was adjourned at approx. 5:55 p.m.

