

City of Decorah  
Sustainability Commission  
February 17, 2021 – 5:00pm  
Meeting Minutes

Electronic meeting pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.8 – In circumstances where such a meeting is impossible or impractical due to concerns about COVID-19 and social distancing for the safety of commission members and the public.

In support of Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds' proclamation declaring a State of Public Health Disaster Emergency in Iowa, the current COVID-19 situation makes it "impossible and impractical" to meet in one location. Due to this the Decorah City Hall was partially closed to the public for the February 17, 2020 Sustainability Commission meeting. Seating was limited to ensure distancing. The public was invited to participate via electronic means.

Members present included: Michelle Barness, Molly McNicoll, Ann Mansfield, Jeremy Leitz, Brent Parker, and Jim Martin-Schramm.

Absent: Ben Grimstad

Others present: Council Liaison Emily Neal and Mayor Lorraine Borowski.

There were four guests on the Zoom link.

Consider approval of minutes from the January 20, 2021 regular meeting

**Motion by McNicoll and second by Mansfield to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2021 regular meeting with the notation that the housing initiative is a "team" process and approach.**

**Roll call vote: Ayes, unanimous.**

**Motion passed.**

Sustainability Commission budget briefing

*Martin-Schramm led a discussion into the history and background of the City Council's approval and allocation of funding. Bird also noted the source of funds is the City's electric utility franchise fee monies. He noted the council has allocated 50% of the funds towards sustainability efforts and programs.*

*Martin-Schramm reviewed some of the financial initiatives in the Plan that relate to these types of funds.*

*There was also general discussion regarding the MEU Task Force and that their funding would also come from these council designated funds.*

Discussion and possible action on building codes

*Bird and Building Official Greg Swanson reviewed their plan for adoption of the City's building codes. Swanson noted he recommends the 2015 International Code Council body of codes for adoption with the 1998 Building Valuation Data for the permit fee basis.*

*Bird noted there will be an open house for those that wish to learn more about the codes and speak with Swanson in more detail about them. This event will be held at the Danan Lansing Building.*

*Martin-Schramm noted this meets the Sustainability Plan metric E.1, Building and Energy Code and is in line with State of Iowa Codes.*

**Motion by Barness and second by Leitz to recommend adoption and enforcement of the 2015 IBC codes as recommended.**

**Roll call vote: Ayes, unanimous.**

**Motion passed.**

Discussion on City staff report; *E4 Sustainability Plan*

*Martin-Schramm led a review of the work the City departments as it relates to sustainability efforts. Bird submitted an annual report, per the metric requirement. There was general discussion of the efforts and projects in each department.*

*There was discussion about developing a press release of way of communicating these projects and activities.*

*There was general discussion about future projects and how the Commission could help with any possible barriers to continue to move projects forward.*

Discussion and possible action; stormwater draft ordinance

*Bril presented an overview of a draft ordinance implementing a stormwater management ordinance.*

*It was noted this addressed metric AW.1 in the City's Sustainability Plan.*

*There was little conversation and the Commission thanked Bril for his work.*

**Motion by Mansfield and second by Barnes to recommend adoption of the stormwater management ordinance as presented.**

**Roll call vote: Ayes, unanimous.**

**Motion passed.**

Other business

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:17pm by McNicoll / Mansfield.

Respectfully submitted,



Chad A. Bird  
City Manager

**Purpose**

*The purpose of the Sustainability Commission shall be to advise the City Council and recommend action on policies and practices that relate to the sustainable use and management of our collective resources, including both human and environmental, as well as our economic resources. The Sustainability Commission will help to ensure that such resources will be sustained and continue to provide for a high quality of life for present and future generations of Decorah doing so by following the processes outlined in the Decorah Sustainability Plan and updating the plan accordingly every 5 years.*

**Exhibit A**

2021 meeting dates  
Third Wednesday of each month.

~~January 20, 2021~~  
April 21, 2021  
July 21, 2021  
October 20, 2021

~~February 17, 2021~~  
May 19, 2021  
August 18, 2021  
November 17, 2021

~~March 17, 2021~~  
June 16, 2021  
September 15, 2021  
December 15, 2021