

## Decorah Sustainability Commission Minutes

Wednesday, April 20th, 2022

5:30 - 6:45 pm, In person and via Zoom

Members present: Jeremy Leitz (Zoom), Jim Martin-Schramm (Zoom), Aaron Detter (Zoom), Ann Mansfield (Zoom), Michelle Barness, Jim Tripp (Zoom), Molly McNicoll (zoom), Kevan Klosterwill (Zoom), Ben Grimstad (Zoom)

Others: Emily Neal (Zoom), Lorraine Borowski, Travis Goedken, Jeremy Bril, Ross Hadley

### AGENDA

1. Call to order
  - b. Meeting called to order by Jim Martin-Schramm at 5:31 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes for March 2022.
  - b. Minutes reviewed and approved by all present. Ben made the motion, Jeremy seconded
3. Quick Updates:
  - a. ED1: April 27 meeting via Zoom with community leaders on workforce development, 5-6 pm (Jim M-S and Mayor Borowski) There will be three 8-10 minute presentations with facilitated discussion re challenges employers are facing.
  - b. Housing Ad Hoc Committee (Mayor Borowski) – Met once; shared concerns. Meeting again at May 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:30. Independence Mayor and City administrator will attend and share updates from their community. Will try to provide an update of this group in 3 months.
  - c. W3: Recycling in the Business District (Jeremy Leitz) – Small group working on this; will purchase 4 bins, 3 locations (Coop, Dry Run and Impact). Single bin that will take mixed recycling. Cost for bins up a bit (\$128/). Downtown Betterment and SMID willing to help with cost. SMID asking for someone from Sustainability Commission attending their next meeting; Jeremy Leitz will plan to attend next Wednesday morning. Talked to Jeremy Bril re layout and bolting down; will attempt to retrofit the IRC bins. Will order; turnaround 12-14 days and then Street Dept. will retrofit.
  - d. CO6: Collaboration with Decorah Public Library on book discussion of Katherine Hayhoe, *Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World*, June 7 and 14, 6-7 pm, Pulpit Rock Brewing. Jim Martin-Schramm is going to be the discussion facilitator. Will continue to collaborate with Luther Center for Sustainable Communities and Library for future book discussions.
  - e. Resilient Iowa Communities Best Practices Assessment (Jim) – Set of best practice items; seeking baseline from cities joining the Resilient Iowa Communities. Commission members asked to review this document and provide input. If you have questions or suggestions for the Decorah plan, please contact Jim.

4. Action Items:

a. AW20: DSC recommendation to City Council that the City of Decorah participate in the “Beyond Pesticides” program available through Resilient Iowa Communities and utilize \$1,000 of “Sustainability Funds” to defer a portion of the \$9,500 cost. (presented by Molly McNicoll)  
Motion made by Jim Martin-Schramm. Seconded by Michelle Barnes. Motion carries unanimously.

- Discussion: City is probably in an ok position for the parks for low pesticide and fertilizer use. However, Parks would like to improve the turf in the parks and they’re interested in this program. Andy Nimrod is willing to go to the training. Low pesticide and organic turf approach. Luther Facilities will also participate. Only requirement is to get signature of participants. Molly will send Travis a copy of the agreement to review. Molly is willing to be available at the City Council meeting when it’s discussed.

5. Discussion Items:

a. E8: EV Charging location and fee structure (Jeremy Bril). See attachment to April meeting agenda, which is an email from Jon Jensen, Director for Luther Center for Sustainable Communities.

- Jeremy Bril; in process of installing these charging stations. Ordinance making its way through the council for establishing a charging fee. Received a lot of feedback. Concerns re the “above and beyond idling fee”. Target user is daily visitors to Decorah. Looking for feedback. Travis reminded that the resolution for the cost structure needs to be applied across the city, not just these first 2 stations (that have been donated by Alliant). Discussion re overnight parking/use and idling fee. Emily will take this to council to say we’d like to accommodate for overnight visitors and possibly a grace period for the idling fee.

b. City Council Sustainability Plan revision and prioritization (Mayor Borowski and Emily Neal). See attachment to April meeting agenda: Copy of Sustainability Survey – Summary.xlsx.-

Discussion: View discussion tab; green cell is top 10% of ranking, red cell is bottom 10% ranking. Green cell – highest priority of council members for DSC. Column U: Note that Admin. Policy will be created as “Standard Operating Procedure” to require task to be done. Jim; is there a central place to go to review these policies? Travis asking for cooperative effort with DSC members and city department heads to create policies. Question from Travis - Example E.6. look at metric for completion – Jim recommends we remove this action item; not really possible to accomplish. Also E.7. – city council wants intermediate targets, we need a road map to get where we’re going. Aaron- we all need to be thinking about the metrics as we review. E.9. Removed. T.2. Regional Transportation Plan - Removed- believed to be outside of scope of Decorah. Aaron is working with Council person Steve Zittergruen on the transportation plan; many of the points will be addressed in the update. S.3 and S.4 move to Council’s plan. AW.30 – best determined by city staff. Very helpful to get this direction from the City Council. Will look forward to Travis reaching out to subcommittees for further work on policies, etc.

c. Land Use: Issues raised by Kwik Star development (Michelle Barnes)

Discussion: We're responsible for representing a policy level (vision and goals) document as a city commission; what's the DSC role in this particular discussion?

It's essential to provide a vision for any of the categories to the council when making longer term decisions. (Point made by Ross Hadley)

6. Other Business.

7. Adjourn.

- Motion to adjourn by Ben Grimstad, seconded by Molly McNicoll.
- Motion passed unanimously; meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Minutes drafted by Ann Mansfield.