

**JOINT MAHTOMEDI PLANNING/ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
JULY 12, 2023**

Chairperson Alex Rogosheske convened the joint workshop meeting at 6:30 p.m. with the following members in attendance: Chantell Knauss, Dan Soler, Greg Maples, Peter Frank, Lacey Smieja, Christine Ahmann-Maples, Scott Peterson, Jonathan Smieja, Erin Roche and Mike Chevalier. Also in attendance were Planner Hannah Rybak, Consulting Planner Eric Zweber, and Office Assistant Luann Tembreull.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Planning Commissioner Soler moved, and Planning Commissioner Maples seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

**DISCUSS SUSTAINABILITY POLICY DEVELOPMENT – DRAFT ORDINANCE
AMENDMENTS**

Consulting Planner Eric Zweber introduced himself and stated that the city applied for and received a Livable Community Act grant from the Metropolitan Council to develop policies and regulations that minimize climate impacts. He noted that the grant would be used to develop the following Policy areas:

1. Tree removal
2. Green stormwater infrastructure
3. Parking and Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure
4. Wind energy
5. Community engagement
6. Sustainable vegetation management

Planner Zweber stated that the City has until December to use this grant. He noted that tree preservation is hard to enforce so there is a need to beef up the ordinance to regulate removal of trees and require an inch for inch instead of tree for tree replacement.

Discussion ensued regarding Tree Preservation and the need to preserve “Heritage Trees” and the need for replacement of these trees with significant trees when removed.

Upon a question by Planning Commissioner Smieja, Planner Zweber stated that the new ordinance did not have an out for any financial hardship clause, only for diseased or dying trees.

Upon a question by Commissioner Soler, Planner Zweber stated that a permit is not required when a homeowner would like to take a tree down in their yard, just developers are required to include tree inventories with their proposals.

Discussion ensued regarding Sustainability Vegetation Regulations, which does not require a permit, but allows for other vegetation to be planted besides just grass and it can grow taller than 9", whereas turf grass still cannot exceed this height. It was noted that this applies only to residential properties and that noxious weeds are still not allowed to be planted.

Commissioner Ahmann-Maples stated that there is a need to limit turf grass with inclusion of more pollinator plants.

Planner Zweber stated that only one change being made to parking lot construction is the addition of requiring one EV charging station per every 50 stalls. This will only be required for surface parking lots, not underground parking.

Planner Zweber noted that the city would be allowing scaled down vertical axis wind turbine in all zoning districts that are 10 Kilowatts or less. Requiring a CUP if exceeding 10 KWs.

Discussion ensued.

Planner Zweber noted that the residential wind turbine can only extend fifteen (15) feet above the highest point of the building, and that the City follows FAA regulations. It was noted that there are color restrictions for the turbine itself. It was also suggested to include examples within the City's Ordinances.

Chair Rogosheske thanked the Environmental Commission members for all their work on the Sustainability Policies.

Planner Zweber noted that the Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at their August 8th meeting regarding these proposed sustainable policies.

There being no further discussion, Planning Commissioner Smieja moved and Environmental Commissioner Chevalier seconded the motion to adjourn the joint work session at 7:50 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Luann Tembreull, Office Assistant.

APPROVED:

Alexander Rogosheske

**ALEX ROGOSHESKE
CHAIRPERSON**

ATTESTED:

Luann Tembreull

**LUANN TEMBREULL
OFFICE ASSISTANT**