



CITY OF NOVI
Environmental Sustainability Committee Meeting
December 2, 2024, 5:30 p.m.
Novi Depot Conference Room | Novi Civic Center | 45175 Ten Mile Road
(248) 347-0445

CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Council Members Gurumurthy, Heintz, and Smith

PRESENT: Council Members Gurumurthy, Heintz, and Smith

STAFF LIAISON: Danielle Mahoney, Assistant City Manager

ALSO PRESENT: Katherine Oppermann, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Gurumurthy, Seconded: Heintz; Approved 3:0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 12, 2024 Minutes

Motion: Heintz, Seconded: Gurumurthy; Approved 3:0

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Smith thanked the committee for the work they accomplished while he was otherwise occupied at the last meeting. He then stated that there are no planned presentations tonight, that the meeting will function as a working session on the Committee's presentation for City Council which he requested be placed on the upcoming December 16, 2024 meeting.

PRESENTATIONS - none

MATTERS FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. Working Session for Committee Report

Assistant City Manager Mahoney displayed the current version of the Committee presentation for the group to review, comment, and make corrections to.

The Committee approved the draft of the mission statement and proceed to work on wordsmithing the vision statement. Ultimately the statement was drafted as "Create a sustainable and resilient Novi, to ensure a verdant and thriving future for all generations." The committee noted that they may decide to adjust it further before the final presentation and moved on to the new section of the presentation.

Chairperson Smith suggested that the Pillars for the committee should be shortened from the draft version, ideally being no more than words each. The rest of the Committee agreed and adjusted the pillars accordingly.

Ms. Mahoney reminded the group that at the last meeting they had spoken about taking the route of putting out a Request for Proposal (RFP) in order to find a consultant to assist with the Environmental Action Plan. She said she had since been made aware of that fact that one of the City's existing engineering contractors, AECOM, offers services of that nature and if the Committee desired, we could choose to work with them without needing the RFP. The benefit to working with AECOM would be that we have a pre-existing relationship with them, they are already familiar with the community, and it would save the additional effort/time of an RFP process. The main downside would be that, by not going through the RFP process which casts a wide net to potential consultants, we would not be aware of our other options. The Committee requested that a meeting be arranged with AECOM in the new year and that they would like to talk to other communities about consultant firms they used before making an official decision on the matter.

Councilmember Gurumurthy asked about a review of existing ordinances and if the review and any suggested revisions should be a part of or separate from the overall Environmental Action Plan (EAP). Chairperson Smith suggested that it would be part of the broader EAP. Ms. Mahoney noted that the "EAP Plan Approach" should be kept broad at this stage as it may change once a consultant and additional committee members are involved.

The Committee then discuss potential timelines for the kickoff and RFP, with a desire for the "kickoff" to start in the first quarter (Q1) of 2025. Chairperson Smith also wants to push the timeline for the Solarize program, with it ideally running in late Spring for installations to take place in fall 2025. This will require that the Committee have everything firm at their end by the end of Q1 as well. It will be important to stress the necessity of the "why" for the program which is primarily a transition to green energy with a larger cost savings by buying as part of a group rather than an individual. It is a huge opportunity for residents to adopt solar energy, especially given the recent HB 5028 which makes it easier for homeowners to make such improvements without Homeowner Association pushback.

REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

PUBLIC COMMENT - none

ADJOURNMENT: 6:38 p.m.

Motion: Smith, Seconded: Heintz; Approved 3:0