



**Energy and Sustainability Task Force Minutes
May 4, 2023, 4:00 pm**

201 South Holden St.

Warrensburg School District R-VI Central Office

Attendees: Bruce Uhler, Barb Rhoads, Aubrey Binder, Jeremiah Robison, Jan Jones, Terry Vair, Travis Hume, Chris Deal, Kathy Strickland

Call to Order by Bruce Uhler at 4:02 PM.

Motion to approve minutes by Barb seconded by Aubrey. Minutes approved as presented.

Motion to approve agenda by Barb seconded by Aubrey. Agenda was approved as presented.

Aubrey presented the current status of the City of Warrensburg Sustainability Survey. We are looking to increase participation in this survey. Committee members are encouraged to share this to their personal pages and any other pages they may be a part of. Some current data points include the largest group of participants are over 41 years of age and overwhelmingly participants have encouraging things to say related to sustainability. Many participants included comments that are very insightful. 80% of respondents considered recycling very important. Additionally, seeking out additional renewable energy resources was very important to respondents.

A conversation ensued about invasive species including thistle that is in bird seed and Bradford Pear trees. One of the questions on the sustainability survey concerned a city buyback program for some of these invasive species and only 10% said they would not be interested in a program like this. Perhaps a handout describing invasive species and buyback programs would be beneficial for the community.

One surprising topic that garnered a lot of attention is the walkability of the City of Warrensburg. Many respondents wrote specifically about this question. Finally, 72% of respondents thought a city sustainability plan and the work of this task force was very important.

Chris Deal introduced himself as the new Parks and Rec Director for the City of Warrensburg. He is excited to be part of this committee and is excited for things to come for Parks and Rec.

Kathy Strickland updated us on the Tree Campus/Tree City situation. Kathy received 45 signatures in support of becoming a tree campus during Earth Week. The service-learning project would involve establishing metal signs for the trees that are part of the tree walk on campus.

Jeremiah provided an update concerning the recycling situation on campus. Two of the three containers on the UCM campus are being utilized appropriately. However, they are experiencing some issues with the third container. Trash is being placed in this container regularly and it keeps the limited recyclable material that is also placed in the container from being used. UCM is working on a coordinated response to educate and encourage students to place their items in the appropriate receptacles.

Higginsville recycling discussion. Higginsville reportedly made \$600,000 last year by recycling cardboard. Terry mentioned opening a recycling center in Warrensburg and providing training to citizens who are interested in participating. Once the training is completed, you are granted a card and that card gives you access to the recycling center. Folks from the sheltered workshop would work the facility and generate revenue for all parties involved.

Bruce mentioned the Burns and McDonnell research project that was contracted with the city. He was disappointed with the initial presentation that happened three weeks ago and looks forward to the full report to be provided later this year. Terry asked if anyone is holding Burns and Mac accountable for trying to sell us 20-year-old ideas related to sustainability. Bruce confirmed that it is being addressed.

Barb Rhoades asked how much support from the city council there was to pursue environmentally responsible policies. Bruce responded that there is a lot of strong support at this time in City and University circles.

Bruce mentioned the corridor contract related to the walking path from Broad Street to Walgreens. We signed another agreement with Burns and McDonnell to review this and plan this out. Part of this project would also include the stormwater issues that originate from the King Chef parking lot.

Next meeting is June 1, 2023

Meeting Adjourned 5:21 PM