

**VILLAGE OF FOX CROSSING
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 5:15 PM
MUNICIPAL COMPLEX - 2000 MUNICIPAL DRIVE**

*“To help sustain our community for future generations by using resources in the most responsible ways at the right times and for the right reasons.”
-Fox Crossing Sustainability Committee Mission Statement*

Attendance:

Kris Koeppe, Chair
*Michael Scheibe, Citizen Member
Veronica Kasperek, Citizen Member
Tracy Romzek, Citizen Member
*Laurie Collin, Citizen Member
Susan Garcia-Franz, Citizen Member
(*) present via virtual platform

Staff:

George Dearborn, Director of Community Development
Farrah Yang, Associate Planner*

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Koeppe called the meeting to order at 5:15pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were not printed for this meeting and will be approved at the February meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM: Non-Agendized Village Related Matters

Pursuant to WI Statutes 19.83(2) & 19.84(2), the public may present matters; however, they cannot be acted upon. There is a three minute time limit per person on non-repetitive matters.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Chairman Koeppe said that WE Energies finally got all the equipment and parts in to start getting the LED lights in and will continue to check in with them to see the progress.

OLD BUSINESS

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1. Community Gardens

Chairman Koeppe asked if there are any questions or concerns after looking at the garden terms. He asked Ms. Yang was able to get the water bill.

Ms. Yang said she was able to get the water bill for summer 2020 year and it was for a total of \$833.64 for both parks. The water bill is coming out of the Sustainability Committee budget. If we continue to charge \$25 for 52 gardens it would come out to \$1300 and subtracting the water bill from that would leave us with \$466.36. After doing some calculations, the lowest we can go is \$20. If we do anything less, it would not cover the water bill. Jim also brought up that we look at the fee and perhaps not order signs in the future.

Director Dearborn mentioned that the water fee is only going to go up.

Ms. Kasperek said we should leave it because there were water leaks in previous years too so we could use extra amount to cover.

Ms. Collin asked if there were any pushbacks.

Ms. Yang said there has not really been any push back.

Mr. Scheibe rephrased for his own understanding that in order to cover the water bill, we are putting that out of own project but it will break us next year if we do not raise the rate.

Chairman Koeppe clarified that if we stay at the rate of \$25 per plot, that would generate about \$1300 and the water bill is \$833. The question is that if we lowered to \$20 would only generate a little over \$1000, which would be getting close to our cost. There is a raise study being done sometime in spring, which would probably raise the cost of water.

Mr. Scheibe said that if we do not have any objections to the \$25 per plot then we should leave it at that because it would give us the leeway to absorb any other increases without having to pass it on. Also I would think our budget is not to just support the gardens, we would need some kind of funds in future that we would like to take.

Chairman Koeppe said there are costs for Electronic Recycling too. We can leave it like this until next year after we see what the water raise comes out to.

Mr. Schiebe asked if we ever found out where those extra electronics came from.

A discussion about finding who the culprits were that left TV and monitors there during the Electronic Recycling event.

Ms. Garcia-Franz asked what the access cost was for the left over TV and monitors.

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Ms. Yang said it was a significant amount around \$700.

Mr. Schiebe said that he hopes we do more than just monitoring it because it seems like now that they know they can get away with it, they will try it again. We need to think about what is going to happen whether it's going to the board and having them pay for it. It should not come out from our Sustainability Budget. The other option would be to just leave it there and let the street and park department work around it. That shouldn't be an option.

Chairman Koeppe asked if there were any other issues with the garden terms. He understood there were questions about the fencing and keeping it up through winter.

Ms. Yang said yes, people have asked if they could keep their fences up to the next year especially if they renew. There was also a question about doing something similar to what we allowed Mark to do which is growing garlic through the winter. Then there was also a question about personal signs. She said she looked through the terms and did not see any prohibition for it, but someone on the east side said we have prohibited in the past.

Mr. Scheibe said that we may have to specify what is allowed.

Ms. Garcia-Franz asked what if it says that you can have one upon preapproval.

Ms. Collin said that she understands why we would have the discretion but who would make that decision.

Director Dearborn said that we could set a standard for a certain sign.

Mr. Scheibe said that he hates to say it, but it is to just ban all signs that are not made by the village. If someone wants a sign then we would make it.

Ms. Yang said to clarify that fencing and signs are okay to do year round as long as fees are paid a year ahead. Signs are okay per approval and has to be a certain size? Is that okay?

Mr. Koeppe said that we are coming back to what Mr. Schiebe is saying which is "what is an okay sign and what is not?"

Several people suggested, must relate to the garden or an identification sign.

Ms. Collins asked about another thing on the document as a fresh pair of eyes. The organic section, are there certain things that we prohibit from a pesticide or chemical perspective.

Ms. Romzek said she thought there use to be something about prohibiting round up.

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Ms. Yang said she was not sure because she took the terms from last year will go back and look at the terms from years prior. She also mentions that someone had a question about scheduling time to deliver manure and compost to the garden.

Mr. Scheibe said that he has a feeling that it's not just going to be a little that it is going to be a large truck driving over the garden. That stuff has to be hand trucked.

Ms. Romzek said you cannot leave any left overs there.

Mr. Scheibe said you need a wagon or a barrel.

Someone from the committee asked about the signs again.

Chairman Koeppe said that they were still on the fence about signs and that there has to be some restriction on it.

Mr. Schiebe said there should be communities with garden terms about signs. He would look into it.

Chairman Koeppe asked if there is anything else to be changed on the signs.

No one had anything else.

Chairman Koeppe mentions that there needs to have someone to take over the gardens. Ms. Yang is taking over the paperwork and phone calls. We just need someone who would go to the gardens for an hour once a week to make sure both gardens are going okay.

Ms. Collins asked if it is something that everyone can divide up and maybe one person takes a week or every other week.

Mr. Scheibe expressed interest in take sharing that responsibility.

Ms. Yang mentions that most gardeners garden in the evening so if you do not have time during the day, it would be nice to have someone go in the evening to talk to the gardeners and check the hoses.

Ms. Collins and Mr. Schiebe said they would work together and Ms. Garcia-Franz expressed that she would be willing to be a back-up and would follow up with Ms. Yang.

Mr. Koeppe suggested we email those returning gardeners if they were interested in taking on a large role in the gardens.

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Ms. Garcia-Franz asked to go back to the water bill and asked if we should be charged for fire protection bill. She just wanted to clarify because gardens do not have a principal structure there.

Director Dearborn said there is nothing there but the water. It is part of the fee that is built into the public service.

Mr. Koeppe asked for the water bill to be emailed to him and he will look into it.

2. Plastic Film Recycling Update

Chairman Koeppe said he had about 170 lbs for December.

Director Dearborn said the village collected about 30-60 lbs.

Chairman Koeppe said that they were able to collect 2 benches in the last period.

3. Other Updates

NEW BUSINESS

1. Future Project Discussion

Chairman Koeppe said we should start looking at other projects we can take on. He asked if anyone thought of any other projects that anyone has thought about; do not have to make a decision tonight.

Ms. Garcia-Franz asked if the committee could revisit the potential leaf composting.

Chairman Koeppe said that the Village was able to invest in two, leaf pick up units that will start in the fall. There is no plans to composting because it costs a lot of labor. He said he wouldn't rule it out yet, but at this time it is not feasible.

There was further discussion on this matter.

Chairman Koeppe has printed out articles from the State of Wisconsin about best recycling practices for local governments. Maybe we can get ideas off this article.

Ms. Garcia-Franz said that there is a lot more blue algae in Lake Winnebago. Maybe this is a project with Winnebago County to plant buffer zones.

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Director Dearborn said that there are stormwater programs on it too. There is money to do that.

Chairman Koeppe added that with the education that we should educate people on how to properly recycle.

Ms. Romzek also said that she walks in the morning and when she sees recycling that is not properly recycled. She asked if there is some type of tag to educate them. Maybe we can walk around our neighborhoods or drive with the recycling people to tag people's garage and how do we word it nicely to help them understand.

Chairman Koeppe also printed out an article about the food hierarchy recover to show much food we can eliminate in the landfill.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Scheibe and second by Ms. Romzek to adjourn the meeting.

The motion carried 6-0.

5:52 p.m.

Sustainability Committee
November 4th, 2020 Minutes

Farrah Yang,
Recording Secretary

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