



MINUTES
OXFORD CLIMATE ACTION STEERING COMMITTEE REGULAR
MEETING
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2023 AT 8:30 AM

Approval of Agenda

David G. moved, Venus seconded, all voted in favor. None opposed.

Approval of Minutes

David G. moved, Venus seconded, all voted in favor. None opposed.

1. Meeting Minutes from July 20th 2023

Old Business

New Business

1. Electrification Fair

The committee discussed strategies for promoting electrification. Due to Ohio legislation Oxford is preempted from passing legislation that prohibits or discourages the use of natural gas. However, the committee concluded there are other strategies to promote electrification, including both public education and more regulatory approaches.

- In terms of regulation, the committee discussed and agreed to draft regulations focused on EV readiness, for example requiring EV charging in future multi-family, home wiring for 240 V, etc.
- Peggy proposed a mini-grant program to support electrification, perhaps initially funded by City general funds. David P. suggested the program might start small by creating a

program fund and small initial budget allocation. David G. moved that the committee recommend a \$5000 budget allocation for 2024 to create a mini-grant to address gaps in the Inflation Reduction Act (e.g. lower income homes, E-bikes, etc.). Venus seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed.

- The committee discussed an electrification fair to educate the public about the Inflation Reduction Act, informing people about the tax benefits and inviting vendors (HVAC companies, solar energy providers, geothermal, EV) to connect with local customers. The proposed date is November 15. A subcommittee agreed to work on this including Sandi, David, and potentially Venus.

2. Updates from Members

Members provided updates. Olivia updated the committee that the Miami University North Geothermal Plant project is currently on hold due to funding issues. Peggy updated on efforts to make Uptown events Zero Waste, David P. suggested the Environmental Commission develop a proposal to Council to commit to Zero Waste for public events on City properties. David P. updated the committee on the City request for proposals to evaluate the capacity of City-owned properties to generate solar energy, and the committee discussed how to ensure follow up to answer questions related to how to meet future community energy demand (towards resilience in the event of grid failure). Reena informed the committee that the proposed solar array has not only been reduced due to costs of interconnection, but the company is also looking to change the technology to tracking panels, which would then consume the entirety of the landfill but to generate only $\frac{2}{3}$ of the potential capacity. David G. expressed concern that the solar generating capacity of the landfill be maximized and recommended and requested a meeting of members of the committee, staff, the contractor, and other engaged parties to explore mutually beneficial solutions. Jason seconded. All voted in favor. None opposed.

3. Staff Updates

The Committee discussed energy aggregation, and the City Manager's recommendation and Council's decision to renew with First Energy/Energy Harbor, which offered the best rate for renewable energy credits, though with a company with dubious history in Ohio. The Committee discussed ways to anticipate the next energy aggregation decision to optimize the opportunity to not only choose the most sustainable supplier but also potentially support local/regional renewable energy development.

Adjournment

David G. moved, Sandi seconded, all voted in favor. None opposed. The meeting adjourned at 9:47 am.