

Manitowoc Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes  
October 23, 2014\*

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jon Reisenbuechler at 5:00 pm.

**Members present**

Jon Reisenbuechler  
Keith Shaw  
Michael Pearson  
Judi Northen

**Updates**

**Michael** gave a report on the status of Grow It Forward. The project has been given a green light by the city, and the group now will need to work with the Parks Department.

Progress is being made in the plan to involve the neighborhood with the project; one goal is to have residents participate in Garden Watch.

The group has discussed ideas for donations and fundraising during the winter months, with a view to being ready to begin work in the spring. Michael mentioned that one idea would be for the group to set up raised beds on individual residents' properties in exchange for a fee.

**Tony** reported on a survey put together by the Manitowoc Main Street organization, to be sent out to downtown businesses and community leaders, including the city council and Mayor Nickels, as part of a Mainly Manitowoc project goal to help establish a sustainable model for the purpose of revitalizing the downtown area. Tony will send a copy of the survey to Committee members, and hard copies are available at the Manitowoc library.

**Keith** informed the Committee that the hoped-for designation of our Lakeshore as a Marine Sanctuary is still awaiting federal response. Keith mentioned that the Sanctuary in Alpena, Michigan has done much to benefit that city.

**Jon** informed us that the Recycling Center's September Tire Collection was a success, and went over some of the many uses for recycled tires, and the fact that the recycling process enables all parts of the tires to be used.

Jon also offered educational materials to Committee members including posters and flyers related to recycling and composting, and guidelines for businesses such as convenience stores, gas stations, or restaurants.

Michael mentioned that his workplace does not recycle in any way. Judi asked what would happen if the DNR found out a business was not recycling. Jon answered that they would most likely send correspondence by mail and maybe at a later date pay the business a visit, however emphasis would be on education rather than any kind of punitive action.

**Judi** gave an update on the activities of GLOBE, the Lakeshore Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's Environment Committee. GLOBE's recent activities have been related to raising congregational awareness of the environmental challenges we face. According to the results of the survey distributed by GLOBE to the congregation, most desired to be more educated and active on environmentally related political issues, and how to contact our legislators. Jon suggested that it would be a good idea to communicate not only with legislators on the State level, but those in office on the local level as well. Judi agreed, and will bring this up to the GLOBE Committee at their next meeting.

**Committee Membership Changes**

Kathleen McDaniel is resigning from the Committee, citing numerous time conflicts. There are no other changes at this time.

Jon stated that our Roster is in need of corrections. He will make contact with the person responsible for updates and request that this be done.

**Margaret Gerhard's Presentation**

Margaret gave a very informative presentation on natural landscaping, also touching on front yard gardening and the challenges faced, from municipalities and sometimes from neighbors, by property owners who wish to have native plantings in their front yards. Simply put, Margaret stated that progress is made by informing, educating, and influencing. She went on to give many helpful resources for anyone interested in promoting natural landscaping. The resources include wildones.org, Midwest Ecological Landscape Alliance (melaweb.org), Stone Silo Prairie Gardens (stonesiloprairie.com) and Seeds of Change (seedsofchange.com).

The presentation was enthusiastically received by members present, and was followed by a question and answer session.

**MPU Tour**

Jon stated that he was informed by Adam Becker that the Committee members would need to decide between a tour of either the Waste Water facility or the Utility. Time and date are to be determined.

**Next Meeting**

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for late November or early December, and will consist of the planned MPU tour.

Today's meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

*\*Note: Since the Committee had no quorum today, these minutes merely describe discussion which took place, and will be re-visited at our next formal meeting, date and time to be announced.*