

Marine GreenStep City Committee Minutes – January 18, 2020

Present: Ginny Avrill, Nancy Cosgriff, Valoree Dowell, Peter Foster, John Goodfellow, Cecily Harris, Liz Kelly, Mark and Patte Kraske, Leslie MacKenzie, Gwen Roden, Kitsi Vadheim

Location: 360 Pratt Street, Marine on St. Croix

Roles: Facilitator: Leslie Mackenzie and Peter Foster; Time-keeper: Kitsi Vadhiem; Secretary: Liz Kelly

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Values Exercise
3. Review Best Practices 21 and 29
4. Sub-committees – choose committees and meet in small groups
5. Meeting evaluation
6. Next meeting date

The December 22 meeting did not happen due to an ice storm.

Discussed Marine City Requirement for Committee Member Approval

At the last Town Council meeting, Bill Miller spoke with Leslie and Peter after they presented on GreenStep activities. He noted that the Town Council had not approved the people who were attending meetings as members on the committee. It is unknown if anyone is an approved member of the committee. Leslie is the official coordinator with the MPCA GreenStep Cities program, but she received no “member” list.

In order for the GreenStep Cities committee to accomplish anything, we believe it is beneficial for this committee to widely invite participation. We recognize that people may come to see what it's about and may leave when they get too busy. We want to propose to the Town Council that a core team of committed members be approved and listed on the website. The core team will schedule, organize and report. The subcommittees (reporting to this core team) will be more fluid in membership, and not require Council approval, since the core team will ultimately be responsible.

The committee further notes that we have active participation from our Town Council representative so she is aware of all activities. This should be a safeguard against actions being taken without going through the proper process.

Action item – Leslie will propose this reporting structure at the February City Council meeting

Values exercise

Peter and Liz are drafting a Mission/Vision statement for the group, and an elevator speech that can be used to quickly describe the group to prospective participants. Members voted on their top three (3) values, which will be incorporated into these statements. Results were as follows:

- Clean water, air, and land (also nature and wildlife)
- Community
- Future generations, multi-generational
- Use resources efficiently

- Prepared
- Vital and viable local economy
- Active living/recreation

Action item – Peter and Liz will draft an “elevator speech” before the next meeting.

Discussion of Best Practice 21.2 Septic System

We discussed resident confusion about how septic systems work, how the city system works and whether people have a private or city system. Leslie and Peter attended the Washington County workshop on wells and septic systems where they gleaned almost no useful information. John Goodfellow offered to prepare material for an informational brochure for new residents (or any resident) explaining septic systems in Marine and how to care for your septic system. This can be included in the Welcome Packet being proposed.

Action item – John will write up information for a brochure. It will be reviewed by the communications committee and provided to the Social Connections/Active Living Subcommittee for inclusion in their Welcome Packet (new Home Buyers) and submitted to the new city website.

Discussion of Best Practice 29.1, 5, 7 and 8, Climate Adaptation & Community Resilience

We ran out of time to give these best practices adequate discussion and instead referred this to the Preparedness Subcommittee. Initial guidance is to review the County Comp Plan and Marine’s current policies (John is aware of these) to see if there are any gaps. Then look for opportunities to ensure the community is aware of the existing plans.

Action Item – Referred to subcommittee

Subcommittees

Leslie explained the benefit of breaking into subcommittees in order to accomplish more work. She expressed a preference, shared by the group, that a committee needed more than one person on it.

She handed out documents that broke out the previously reviewed best practices by proposed subcommittees. She noted that although Ordinance/Policy could be a subcommittee, it seemed unlikely to be an attractive option for volunteers. She proposed an alternative way to handle this type of work.

Ordinance discussion: Reviewing ordinances with an eye toward GreenStep-advised changes is not suggested to be done in coordination with the current ordinance review process being undertaken by the City Council. This would not begin for several months and any suggested ordinance changes would be proposed at a later time.

Kevin and Leslie have talked with Diana McKeown (Great Plains Institute) and Phil Muessig (MPCA) about the requirements to become a Step 4 city. Those requirements focus on implementing a metrics/reporting technology. This may (or may not) be cumbersome for staff. When Leslie talked to Diana, she suggested a GreenCorp volunteer could help with this, and that a volunteer could be shared with a nearby community. Scandia is also a Step 3 city. Leslie met with Mary Hooley from GreenStep Scandia. Applications for GreenCorp volunteers will open in February.

Action Item – Leslie will speak with the Scandia City Manager to further determine interest and if so, will propose this position at the February Marine Town Council

meeting. The intern would help with implementing the reporting technology and with review of GreenStep, Marine and other community ordinances.

Sub-committee Selection

Members in attendance selected from the list of proposed subcommittees. The Waste Reduction and Social Connections groups met, discussed possible work plans, and scheduled their next meetings.

	G A	N C	V D	P F	J G	C H	L K	M K	P K	L M	A R	G R	K V	G J	J S	J J
1) <i>Communications</i>			X	X			X			X						
2) <i>Energy</i>										X						
3) <i>Electric Vehicle</i>										X	X			X		
4) <i>Transit</i>	X															
5) <i>Waste/Reduction Reuse</i>					X				X			X	X			
6) <i>Preparedness & Resilience</i>				X	*					X						
7) <i>Social Connections/ Active Living</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X						X
8) <i>Natural Resources</i>	X	X	X		X	X	X	X					X			
9) <i>Business**</i>		X			X							X			X	

*consultation only

Sub-committee Scheduling

- Social Connections/Active Living - Wed. Feb 5, Time: 6:00 - 7:30pm, Cecily Harris’s House on Broadway, just west of the bridge/creek on the north side of Broadway
- Waste Group – John is going to craft a proposed workplan and email it to committee members for review with the goal of having an approved plan by the next meeting date.
- Natural Resources – Since there is a lot of overlap with the social connections group, they will look at these topics after the social connections topics.

People who were unable to attend the meeting this time will be asked which committee they would like to be on. New committees can be formed and meet at the next all-group meeting.

In future, there will be fewer all-group meetings as more work is done in subcommittees.

Wrap-up

Members expressed appreciation for the time keeping, energy, productivity and organization of the meeting... kudos to everyone!

NEXT GreenStep Committee Meeting

- Date: Sat. Feb 22
- Time: 9:00 - 11:00am
- Location: 2115 Jackson Circle