

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL MINUTES

July 12, 2021

Service Committee Meeting

The Service Committee meeting of Council was called to order by Chair Berry at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall – 4035 Broadway.

Roll was called and the following members were present:

Roby Schottke

Aaron Schlabach

Christine Houk

Randy Holt

1. Mr. Berry welcomed members of the Sustainability Committee and turned the meeting over to Ms. Linda Rosine, Parks & Rec. Dept., for a presentation.

Ms. Rosine introduced the members of the Committee and explained that they began in 2019 with a Resolution adopted by Council and appointments by the Mayor. She said they were lucky to have partnered with OSU in the beginning and have realized that Grove City does more than any other community in Central Ohio for sustainability. She stated that the Draft Sustainability Plan was sent out to Council previously and provided an overview of that Plan. She shared a breakdown of the eight (8) focus areas and reviewed the objectives, action items, responsibility and time frame for each. She noted that many of these items have been completed or are on-going, as this is a living, breathing document that will change over time. It is also compatible with GC2050.

In the Build Environment Focus Area, Mr. Schottke suggested removing “PUD” from item 5.

In Item 4, Mayor Stage suggested adding how many buildings are LEEDS now and how many we want to achieve by a certain year.

Ms. Houk stated that the measures are general in the document, which she feels is perfect as goal setting should be on-going. She said setting benchmarks through the document could be included.

In the Natural Environment Focus Area, Mr. Berry suggested adding what an invasive plant is. One of the committee members said they plan to do that under education and community outreach.

In the Energy Focus Area, Mr. Smith, Dir. of Law, updated everyone on the progress being made on the electric aggregation program.

Mr. Schottke suggested saying “renewable energy” rather than wind & solar in this area.

Ms. Rosine shared the Committees priorities and their thoughts for next steps.

Mr. Berry stated that he will sponsor a resolution to accept the Sustainability Plan at an upcoming meeting, unless there were objections.

Mr. Schottke suggested adding a line about pursuing grants that could fund a coordinator and other sustainability programs.

Ms. Houk thanked the committee for all their hard work and asked what the key priorities are. Ms. Rosine said getting the Plan adopted; having collaborative meetings with the Dept. Heads to finish some of the “low hanging fruit” items; start on community education.

Mr. Rick Rosine, Committee Member commented that sustainability is a lifestyle, not a scoresheet. He said the list is a way to get us all to live the right way and change our behaviors over time.

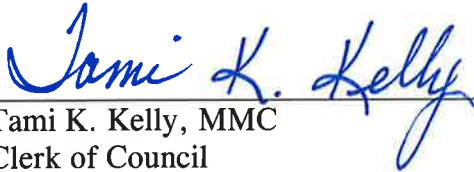
Glorianna Corman, Committee Member, commented that the committee wants to make sure something happens with the Plan. She said it won't go anywhere without follow-up.

Mayor Stage commented that this is the 30th anniversary for Keep Grove City Beautiful and the same discussions occurred when this Committee began. He said it is cultural within Grove City and we need to be an example. He said he doesn't want to become disjointed between Keep Grove City Beautiful and Sustainability. These two committees need to work together.

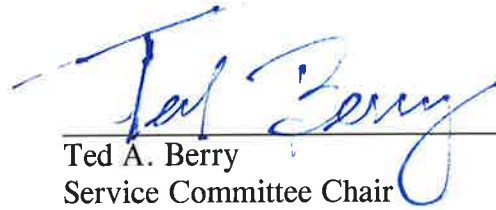
The Mayor and Council Members thanked and congratulated Linda Rosine and the members of the Sustainability Committee.

2. After closing comments, a motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous consent.

Council adjourned at 7:15 p.m.



Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council



Ted A. Berry
Service Committee Chair

GROVE CITY SUSTAINABILITY PLAN



FOCUS AREAS



Built Environment



Natural Environment



Energy



Transportation



Waste Reduction & Recycling



Business Practices



City Operations



Community Engagement

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

OUTCOME OBJECTIVE: The built environment consists of man-made structures created or modified for human activity. Elements include architecture, landscape architecture, cities and infrastructure. The City of Grove City aims to promote sustainable design and construction methods.

Action Items	Measures	Responsibility			Time Frame			Status
		CITY	ELECTED	BOARD	EXTERNAL	SHORT	MEDIUM	
I. Update building and zoning code to encourage best practices for sustainable development.								
	1. Create incentives to reflect sustainable material use in the residential and non-residential appearance standards.	• Development Department • City Council • Building and Zoning Division						☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. City Council adopts updates to the Zoning Code by 2021 that encourages sustainable development practices.							☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	3. Update zoning codes to focus on parkland, increasing natural areas and preserving farmland.							☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
II. Remove regulatory and permitting barriers for Low Impact Development (LID) practices.								
	1. Clustering homes and reducing paved surfaces in new development.	• Development Department • City Council						☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Incorporate better language in the new code to create and preserve green space and natural vegetation.							☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
III. Remove regulatory and permitting barriers for Green Infrastructure (GI) and practices.								
	1. Strengthen storm water policy for implementation of rain gardens, green roofs and permeable pavement in new developments and existing homes.	• Development Department • Service Department • City Council					X	☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
IV. Incentivize LEED principles and green practices for new commercial buildings and retrofits.								
	1. Reduce permit fees to developers implementing LEED practices in new builds or retrofitting existing spaces/buildings.	• Building and Zoning Division • City Council - Funding					X	☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
	2. Create incentive tiers and how to measure.						X	☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
V. Incorporate EV compatible outlets in new builds and retrofits								
	1. Add to zoning text for new residential PUDs.	• Development Department					X	☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE

VI. All new residential construction to be Energy Star certified.					
	1. Help builder/developer to become an Energy Star partner.	• Development Department • Building and Zoning Division			☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
	2. Develop incentives for developers to become Energy Star certified.				☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	3. Promote those contractors who are Energy Star certified on the Building Department's web page for registered contractors.				☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
VII. All new-build multifamily and senior living facilities to provide recycling for their residents.					
	1. Create a new code to require developers to provide recycling containers/dumpsters for all multifamily and senior living facilities. Note: This has been added to the draft standards in the new code.	• Development Department • City Council		X	☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT									
OUTCOME OBJECTIVE:		Protect and conserve our natural resources, through protecting habitats, incorporating native plant species, and adapting open spaces, parks and community gardens.							
Action Items	Measures	Responsibility			Time Frame			Status	
		CITY	ELECTED	BOARD	EXTERNAL	SHORT	MEDIUM		LONG
I. Create community gardens within the Grove City community.									
	1. Determine location(s) of community gardens and assemble a management plan for those gardens.	• Parks and Recreation Department • Grove City Parks Board				X			☒ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Promote the gardens through social media, community meetings and events.					X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
II. Increase the number of native species planted on non-recreational areas and recreational areas within Grove City.									
	1. Evaluate potential open spaces (outside of parks) and rights-of-way to plant native species.	• Urban Forestry Division • Parks and Recreation Department				X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Set up master plan and timeline for creating these areas.					X			☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
III. Form a community volunteer group to remove invasive species on City owned non-recreation and recreational properties and, if possible, replant with native species.									
	1. Organize a group of volunteers to help remove invasive species.	• Urban Forestry Division • Grove City Tree Commission				X			☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
	2. Hold a series of workshops to educate our residents about invasive species and to help identify areas.					X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	3. Determine the types of native perennials to be planted.					X			☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
IV. Encourage homeowners to manage their gardens and yards as Backyard Wildlife Habitats.									
	1. Hold workshops for residents on how to become a certified Backyard Wildlife Habitat.	• Urban Forestry Division • Keep Grove City Beautiful • Franklin Soil and Water • Community Relations				X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Work toward a Community Wildlife Habitat certification for our different communities.					X			☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE

V. Conduct a tree canopy study to determine the amount of tree canopy currently in Grove City.				
1. Hire a company to conduct the study and create a tree canopy plan with goals and objectives for increasing the canopy.	• Urban Forestry Division	X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
VI. Change commercial development landscape codes to suggest using native plants, trees and shrubs.				
1. Develop a list of native plants, trees and shrubs to present to developers for use in their new and/or existing projects.	• Urban Forestry Division • Development Department	X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE

ENERGY									
OUTCOME OBJECTIVE: Increase adoption of renewable energy, reduce total energy consumption and generally support more sustainable energy practices.									
Action Items	Measures	Responsibility				Time Frame			Status
		CITY	ELECTED	BOARD	EXTERNAL	SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG	
I. Implement energy aggregation.									
	1. Council passed ordinance C-37-20 to put the energy aggregation on the November 2020 ballot (Issue 10). Issue 10 passed 63% to 37%. The City to send out requests for proposals for the generation of clean renewable energy.	• City Council • City Administration				X			☒ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. The City to send out requests for proposals for the generation of clean renewable energy.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
II. Commit to City Operations using MORPC's Local Government Energy Partnership.									
	1. Collaborate with MORPC to develop the energy partnership.	• City Council • City Administration • Service Director • Facilities Maintenance					X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
	2. Create a plan to reduce energy usage and source the electricity still being used from emission-free sources.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
III. Encourage residents and businesses to use solar and wind power if possible.									
	1. Change zoning code to allow for new and built residential generation of renewable energy via wind or solar power.	• Development Department • Building and Zoning Division					X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Work with HOAs to encourage and become more accepting of wind and solar power.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
IV. Promote energy efficient building practices.									
	1. Provide residents with information on programs such as Ohio PACE, MORPC home weatherization, and LEED Green Building certification.	• Development Department • Building and Zoning Division • City Council (funding) • Community Relations					X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Create green building checklists for municipal certification.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
	3. Incentivize green building practices through reduced permit fees or fast tracking applications with green building practices.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
V. All City facilities to be net zero to the grid by 2035.									
	1. Develop goals and objectives for net zero plan.	• Service Director • Facilities Maintenance Supervisor						X	☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE

TRANSPORTATION									
OUTCOME OBJECTIVE:		Provide our community with access to a range of transportation options that accommodate all users who, walk, bike, take public transit, move goods or drive cars.							
Action Items	Measures	Responsibility				Time Frame			Status
		CITY	ELECTED	BOARD	EXTERNAL	SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG	
I. Adopt a Complete Streets policy									
	1. Pass a resolution to adopt the Complete Streets policy as part of GroveCity2050.	• City Council					X		☒ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
II. Build more active transportation infrastructure									
	1. Add more trail miles within Grove City to provide cyclist connections to the Central Ohio Greenways regional trail network.	• Parks and Recreation Department • Development Department • Service Department • City Council - Funding					X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Prioritize trail segments in Grove City based on the needs of the community.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
III. Enhance connectivity and access to EV charging stations.									
	1. Identify locations in Grove City that hold high EV charging potential such as nearby businesses, residences and apartments.	• Development Department • City Council - Funding • Visit Grove City					X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Give incentives to businesses, hotels, etc. for developing their own charging station area in coordination with the City to have the greatest level of impact.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
	3. Help businesses connect to partners to create EV stations.					X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
IV. Expand the range of transportation options citywide.									
	1. Assess the transportation need of our businesses and workforce.	• Development Department • City Council - Funding • Parks and Recreation • Safety Director					X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
	2. Continuously monitor and evaluate our transportation needs.					X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	3. Look into piloting a bike-share program.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
	4. Work with COTA for COTA//Plus to increase ridership and further expand* the program, possibly incorporating a southwest corridor. * Note: this program was expanded for 2020-2021.					X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE

WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING

OUTCOME OBJECTIVE: To reduce the amount of waste going into our landfill that otherwise is not being recycled or re-purposed.

Action Items	Measures	Responsibility				Time Frame			Status
		CITY	ELECTED	BOARD	EXTERNAL	SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG	
I. Partner with SWACO to create commercial recycling initiatives.									
	1. Work with SWACO to create an educational campaign to explain what can be recycled and the benefits.	• SWACO • Economic Development				X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Create an awards program that can be displayed in their storefronts, for their recycling efforts.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
II. Promote convenient food waste recycling options for our residents									
	1. Develop pilot residential food waste drop-off program.	• Environmental Supervisor • SWACO • Community Relations • City Council - Funding				X			☒ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Locate options for convenient drop-offs around the City.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
	3. Create an educational program for the new drop-off program and a campaign to encourage proper residential composting.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
III. Increase the community's diversion rate.									
	1. Increase the City's diversion rate 28% - 40% by 2023.	• Community Relations • Environmental Supervisor				X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Provide more opportunities for our residents to recycle or donate items.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	3. Educate our residents about recycling.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
IV. Increase recycling in City facilities and City parks.									
	1. Create a recycling master plan for our parks and Town Center.	• GT Environmental • Environmental Supervisor • Parks and Recreation • Community Relations				X			☒ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Evaluate all recycling containers in City buildings.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	3. Create an educational campaign for our employees and residents.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE

V. All City facilities to be zero waste by 2025.			
	1. Conduct a waste audit in all City facilities.	• City Facility Manager • Representative from Each City Department • Environmental Supervisor	☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
	2. Create a zero waste plan for each building with goals and objectives.		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
	3. Educate our employees about our zero waste plan.		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
VI. All City and non-City events to be zero waste by 2025.			
	1. Create a zero waste plan for all City-sponsored events.	• Environmental Supervisor • City Event Management Personnel • Representatives from non-City entities planning events	☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
	2. Create a zero waste plan for all events occurring in Grove City sponsored by other entities.		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
	3. Create a packet of information for all event managers.		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE

BUSINESS PRACTICES

OUTCOME OBJECTIVE:

Create a business environment that encourages the growth of environmental friendly businesses, technology and buildings.

Action Items	Measures	Responsibility				Time Frame			Status
		CITY	ELECTED	BOARD	EXTERNAL	SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG	
I. Create a Grove City green business program.									
	1. Develop a green business program to recognize businesses for their commitment to sustainability.	• Business Development • Building and Zoning Division • Community Relations • Chamber of Commerce					X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
	2. Add a “green spot” type program to the tier program.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
II. Create a Grove City new development checklist.									
	1. Develop green design standards to be incorporated into the development text.	• Development Department • Building and Zoning Division • City Council					X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
	2. Create green development text for new and existing businesses.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
III. Create a green business round table.									
	1. Develop discussion topics for quarterly green business round tables.	• Development Department • Community Relations • Chamber of Commerce • Visit Grove City					X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Develop a targeted outreach list of local business owners who are interested in learning about sustainable business practices.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE

CITY OPERATIONS									
OUTCOME OBJECTIVE:		Implement sustainable practices throughout the City and it's facilities that enable sustainable operations and expand environmental education and stewardship throughout the Grove City Community.							
Action Items	Measures	Responsibility				Time Frame			Status
		CITY	ELECTED	BOARD	EXTERNAL	SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG	
I. Create the Office of Sustainability for the City of Grove City.									
	1. Coordinate sustainability efforts through the City and departments.	• City Administration • City Council					X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
	2. Establish best practice guidelines for the City of Grove City.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
II. Create a sustainable procurement and purchasing policy.									
	1. Create a policy to prioritize and require sustainable procurement.	• City Council • Service Department/Facility Manager				X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Create a list of default and preferred products that are regularly purchased.					X			☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
III. Transition City fleet to electric vehicles where applicable.									
	1. Carry out plan for transitioning to an electric, clean diesel or B- bio diesel, where applicable.	• Service Director • Fleet Manager • City Administration • City Council - Funding					X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
IV. Implement a city-wide water efficiency plan.									
	1. Create a plan for City facilities to determine what best practices we can use to decrease the municipal operational cost, time and energy; i.e.; rain gardens, low-water use appliances, fixtures, products, etc.	• Service Department/Facility Manager • City Council - Policy and Funding					X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
V. Create a rain harvesting system at the Service Complex.									
	1. Develop a plan and quote for installing a rain harvesting system.	• Service Director • Urban Forester • City Council - Funding				X			☒ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

OUTCOME OBJECTIVE: Strengthen relationships with members of the community using improved communication that emphasizes how sustainability is relevant to them.

Action Items	Measures	Responsibility				Time Frame			Status
		CITY	ELECTED	BOARD	EXTERNAL	SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG	
I. Create a social media and web presence about the City's sustainability efforts and future goals.									
	1. Create a sustainability web page.	• Environmental Supervisor • Community Relations					X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Use social media to present sustainability topics and events.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
II. Offer community workshops on sustainability topics that would help our residents incorporate these practices in their daily lives.									
	1. Plan workshops either monthly or quarterly on such topics as rain gardens, recycling and composting, solar and wind power, water usage, renewable energy and energy usage.	• Environmental Supervisor • Community Relations					X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
	2. Link webinars and create partnerships with organizations for virtual workshops.						X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE
III. Meet with Grove City HOA's to provide resources for and encourage sustainable practices.									
	1. Facilitate conversations with HOAs and Grove City to encourage them to consider adopting these practices and drafting new language into their covenants.	• Development Department • Building and Zoning Division						X	☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
IV. Educate the public about energy efficiency and renewable energy resources.									
	1. Provide assistance to our community regarding information on renewable energy practices.	• Environmental Supervisor • Community Relations • MORPC					X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
V. Implement a community program to educate about planting native species on private residential property.									
	1. Create a campaign to encourage and educate our residents on the importance of planting and landscaping with native species of plants and trees.	• Urban Forestry Division • Community Relations • FSWCD					X		☐ COMPLETE ☒ ONGOING ☐ FUTURE
VI. Apply for the OHIO EPA E3C (Encouraging Environmental Excellence for Communities) recognition.									
	1. Attain the "Sustainable Level," the highest level of recognition offered by the E3C.	• Environmental Supervisor					X		☐ COMPLETE ☐ ONGOING ☒ FUTURE

Next Steps

Expectations of Sustainability Committee

- Create goals and objectives to be included in a Sustainability Plan.
- Identify action sets and strategies to meet those goals.
- Create the Grove City Sustainability Plan; complete and currently under review.

Next Steps

What are the next steps after the plan is approved?

The Sustainability Committee recommends the following:

- A Sustainability Coordinator is needed to insure the plan is implemented.
- Department Directors receive the plan and work on goals and objectives.
- The committee meets quarterly with the coordinator to review what action items have been accomplished.
- Plan is updated by the committee as action items are completed and new action items are added.
- An annual report is given to City Council that includes yearly accomplishments, goals for the following year and potential funding needs.