



# City of Milwaukee

200 E. Wells Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
53202

## Meeting Minutes

### CITY-COUNTY TASK FORCE ON CLIMATE AND ECONOMIC EQUITY

*Ald. Nik Kovac and  
Marcelia Nicholson, Co-Chairs*

*Pam Fendt, Linda Frank, Julie Kerkick, Ted Kraig, Janet  
Meissner Pritchard, Supreme Moore Omokunde, Pamela  
Ritger, Erick Shambarger, and Rafael Smith*

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*Google documents for this body can be found at :  
<http://bit.ly/CCTFCEE>*

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Monday, February 15, 2021

11:00 AM

Virtual

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#### Land Use, Urban Agriculture and Reforestation Work Group

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/886167869>

Or by phone: (646) 749-3122

One-touch: tel:+16467493122,,886167869#

Access Code: 886-167-869

**Linda Frank, Chair**

**George Martin, Janet Meissner Pritchard, Bruce Wiggins, Shannon Sloan-Spice, David Weingrod, Dynasty Cesar, Kelly Moore Brands, Monica Wauk Smith, Sam Leichtling, Scott Baran, Kimberly Kujoth, Tracy Staedter, Benjamin McKay, Kathy Riebe, Antonio Butts (16 members)**

#### 1. Call to order and roll call.

*Working Group Members (16)*

*Present*

*xLinda Frank, Chair*

*xGeorge Martin, xShannon Sloan-Spice, xDavid Weingrod, xDynasty Cesar, xKelly Moore Brands, xMonica Wauk Smith, xSam Leichtling, , xKimberly Kujoth, xTracy Staedter, xBenjamin McKay, xKatherine Riebe, xJanet Meissner Pritchard xBruce Wiggins*

*Absent*

*Antonio Butts 11:30*

*Scott Baran 11:13*

*Guests*

*xVenice Williams, Alice's Garden urban farm; xEnrique Figueroa, UWM urban planning retired  
Erick Shambarger*

*Ashley Norris, listening in*

*Meeting convened: 11:05 A.M.*

**2. Approve minutes of 1/29/21 meeting.**

*George, approved*

*New – propose regular meeting day of Monday, alternating 11 and 1 start time*

**3. Definitions of GHG emissions reductions and net zero emissions and how they relate to the work of the Land Use group.**

- a. GHG emissions*
- i. As identified in GHG inventory*
- ii. Primarily from burning fossil fuels – buildings, electricity, transportation sectors, plus waste and wastewater*
- b. Net zero emissions*
- i. Does not equal zero emissions*
- ii. Requires drawdown of carbon from the atmosphere to offset continued emissions*
- iii. Natural climate solutions – carbon sequestration above and below ground, in plants, roots and soil*
- iv. Why 2050 and how do we measure this? Some experts say that with 45-60% emissions reduction, carbon sequestration can bring carbon levels to net zero*
- c. Drawdown by Paul Hawken, per Bruce*
- d. Other measures beyond the iclei REPORT, such as reducing food miles*
- e. ICLEI report is now on video per Erick; keep in mind the sequestration; massive reforestation and such suggested by Drawdown; land use planning such as transit oriented development should also be looked at; Dave suggests looking outside the county for trees but we need to be limited here*

**4. Sharing of background information on initial identified project topics, with a focus on key existing projects, programs and resources**

**Tree Canopy –**

**Branch Out Milwaukee Plan (Milwaukee Water Commons)**

**Vacant Lots –**

**City's HOME GR/OWN program; Neighborhood Improvement Development Corp;  
Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan**

**Forest/Woodland Preservation and Restoration –**

**City's landscape zoning code; Municipal Flood Control (MFC) grant program**

**Food / Access to Healthy Food / urban agriculture / reducing food miles –**

**City's HOME-GROWN program Healthy Food Access; Cream City Farms brownfield development**

*Tree Canopy –*

*Branch Out Milwaukee Plan (Milwaukee Water Commons)*

*Janet, new director of programs at Mil Water Commons; asked everyone to read the plan; Water Centric City theme was being developed; esp. historically underserved communities; urban tree canopy was a focus due to co-benefits like better air, asthma reduction, heat island impacts, energy costs, emphasizes co-benefits of addressing urban tree canopy; workforce issues and maintenance; recruit for maintenance*

*Enrique – private vs. public property tree location*

*26% tree canopy in Milwaukee, per Janet; Refresh 40% goal; must be distributed equitably;*

*Ben points to SEWRPC info on parks, open space, etc. and could compile this if desired*

*George – tree canopy plus urban forest plus urban agriculture; weave it all together*

*Bruce – we are getting ahead of things by doing detail on project ideas now*

*Enrique, sees 8 street trees; brings up the private land aspect for trees*

*Vacant Lots –*

*City's HOME GR/OWN program; Neighborhood Improvement Development Corp; Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*

*Dynasty, HOME GR/OWN coordinator; vacant lots, not all within their program; Leasing for Gardens through DCD and community garden permitting process; brownfield assessment; neighborhood input*

*Farms installed through a business*

*Partnerships with Walnut Way, Fondy, etc., some parks, orchards*

*25 private parks or orchards to date*

*Cream City Farms – needs human power*

*Pete's Fruit Market partnering for pumpkins; working with neighborhood*

*Comprehensive Plan is in planning for their portion*

*Barrier – human power for maintenance is a main one*

*MKE Black community grocery store in the works for locally grown food, coop model,*

*Richard Diaz*

*Erick – fresh food access was the genesis of HOME GR/OWN*

*Groundwork does the most in community gardens*

*Has become placemaking; pocket parks like Fondy Park; North Avenue beautification*

*Not so much urban agriculture now*

*Not solving food insecurity*

*Green Infrastructure Plan, 2019 – this is a sea change for streets, mitigation, parking lots, jobs, schools; award winning*

*Milwaukee.gov/GI*

*45% of Milwaukee is impervious*

*DCD Housing affordability report, 2020*

*DNR Maps of Contaminated Sites; where tree planting is not realistic*

*Cream City – food production must be bumped up significantly*

*Comprehensive outdoor recreation plan; our project could be incorporated; state and federal funds can be attracted for projects outlined in those plans*

*Networks of trails, etc. vs. individual lots*

*This summer for getting involved*

*Landscape design guide  
Tree line buffer incorporated now*

*Green corridor, model from Witkowski on south side*

*Sam, transit-oriented development and grants for beautification projects, Development Corp  
Challenges re sustainability  
Streetcar line; SEWRPC is looking at transportation, as well as city's Bus Rapid Transit; reduces transportation emissions*

*Ben, EW Rapid Transit BRT; NS corridor at 27th is under study; can share;  
George questions what communities and destinations are being connected; Purple line is very busy and would be improve, people of color mostly*

*Land use and transportation planning go hand in hand per Ben  
Big project –*

*Venice – strong agricultural connections; shift language and implementation; socioeconomic layers; barriers to creating farms; regenerative agriculture is key; regenerate soil, air, communities; feeding the population; much land available*

*Katherine – Wauwatosa; moratorium on clearing any more land was mentioned  
Janet – tree clearing*

*Forest/Woodland Preservation and Restoration –  
City's landscape zoning code; Municipal Flood Control (MFC) grant program  
George – points to upriver impacts and the county partners  
Kelly, 16th Street – MMSD partner w/KK River projects; fish habitat; leveraging the MMSD investment; could be leveraged; MMSD has 5-year maintenance  
Katherine, Green Tier Legacy recent meeting; flood resilience score card was presented; looking for participants; Tosa is considering; 3 lenses for evaluation*

*Food / Access to Healthy Food / urban agriculture / reducing food miles –  
City's HOME-GROWN program Healthy Food Access; Cream City Farms brownfield development  
Dynasty – from HOME GR/OWN, this was a focus but has now shifted; she has this as a personal goal; COVID impacts; current reliance on food from the outside;  
Cream City Farms – David Johnson, farmer; has resigned; Venice can speak on successful farming  
Bruce – reducing food miles as a measure; also, ICLEI report does not reflect the potential for our group*

*Tracy – co2 and jobs; criteria to consider  
Erick – carbon into the ground; get an expert; apply criteria  
George - #1 project idea, March  
Project idea, barriers, initiatives to build on; convenor for each one, to happen before next meeting*

*Do breakout rooms next time*

## **5. Brainstorming additional project topics.**

- a. *Soil carbon / 4 Per 1000 Initiative*
- b. *Biochar*
- c. *Enrique – race and ethnicity study available on the 4 topic areas; getting the input from underserved communities*
- i. *Organizations and institutions to be identified*

**6. Scheduling of future meetings.**

**7. Adjournment.**

*Dave, 1:06 pm*  
*Minutes provided by Linda Frank.*