

## Hewitt Energy & Environment Planning Meeting 2

January 24, 2022

Present: Alex Weego, Jim Walker, Jim Opelia, Gloriann Bartels, Erica Bjelland, BJ Allen

Meeting 2 out of 4 total began a few minutes after 6pm.

Since there were 2 new members this time, there were introductions and folks expressed their interest in Energy & Environment Planning. Gloriann is interested in environment, there is a nice park downtown and can't use it because there are things that are missing. Jim Opelia is interested in the broader transition from fossil fuels, and how that will play out while recognizing that fossil fuels are still needed.

We revisited the topic areas of Energy & Environment: Storm Events, Water, Land & Food, Waste, and Energy. We discussed the main goals for the day, which included Reviewing Survey Results and Developing Goals and Action Steps for the City's E&E Plan.

Criteria: The team worked to craft the criteria for scoring projects and determining their prioritization. Four criteria were established and all were assigned the same weight (in parentheses):

1. Supports Hewitt being a welcoming community to live, work, play, and raise a family. (1)
2. Saves time, money, and/or resources. (1)
3. Adds value, safety, and security. (1)
4. Provides an opportunity for people to participate in the community. (1)

Erica reviewed the purpose of the survey – to understand community-level Energy & Environment engagement; to identify perceived risks and mitigation strategies related to Energy & Environment; and to provide the city with community data to support the actions taken.

Next we reviewed the survey results. Surveys were sent out along with the utility bills, and 36 responses were received, representing 16% of the population. Most respondents were over 65 years of age and property owners. In terms of severe weather, people were most concerned about extreme cold, and next droughts and straight-line winds.

The community really wants to see the environmental clean-up day continue. A significant portion of the community (81%) was interested in energy efficiency. 1/3 of respondents believe their drinking water is high quality. Rundown buildings are an issue of concern for people. Broadband work should continue.

In terms of top projects, the community was most interested in fixing the restrooms at the park. Next, there was interest in improving parks and trails, and finally, the third greatest consensus was on planting more greenery in town.

Next, we went over possible ideas for projects and everyone had an opportunity to brainstorm additional project ideas. These will become part of the Energy & Environment Plan, and will be prioritized at the next meeting. The next meeting date is Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 6-7:30pm.

For planning purposes and presentation to City Council, Hewitt's meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month. Alex recommended that we provide information to the public about the plan as well at the community center.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.