

AGENDA

1. ROLL CALL: Greenberg, Hansen, Hanelitz, Hart, Heid, Lyng, Pendaz-Foster, Presler, Myers, Sande
2. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES
 - A. January 15, 2025 Sustainability Committee Minutes
3. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Organics Recycling
 - B. Turf Grass Reduction
 - C. Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure
 - D. Creating a Commission
4. OLD BUSINESS
5. INFORMATION ONLY
 - A. Roundtable Updates
6. ADJOURNMENT



Sustainability Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 19, 2025

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Roll Call



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Consideration of Minutes



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New Business

1. Organics Recycling
2. Turf Grass Reduction
3. Bike/Pedestrian Infrastructure
4. Commission

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Organics Recycling



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Organics Recycling Engagement Suggestions

Put together a social media and newsletter campaign

- Testimonials from Committee members
- Pictures or videos of your at-home set ups w/ tips
- Why should residents care?
- Blurbs for upcoming newsletters
 - UB News (bimonthly) (Jan, March, May, Jul, Sep, Nov)
 - City Newsletter (biannual) (March, September)
 - Birdtown Brief (weekly) (Friday)
- Make updates to Organics page on the City website
- Kayla is seeking a volunteer to participate in a segment with CCX Media

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Upcoming Tabling Opportunities

Event	Date	Time	Location	Volunteers?
Arbor Day & Park Clean Up	Saturday, April 26	9:30 a.m.	TBD	
Paper Shredding Event	Saturday, May 10	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Robbinsdale Public Works	
Native Plant Sale Pick Up	Saturday, May 17 (tentative)	TBD	Lee Park	
Farmer's Market	TBD	TBD	Lakeview Terrace Park	
Popsicles in the Park	Friday, June 13	12:00-2:00 p.m.	Manor Park	
Movie in the Park	Friday, June 20	8:30 p.m.	Hollingsworth Park	
Popsicles in the Park	Friday, July 11	12:00-2:00 p.m.	Kelly Park	
Pets in the Park	Thursday, July 14	6:00-8:00 p.m.	Kelly Park	
National Night Out	Tuesday, August 5	Evening	Your neighborhood block party	
Popsicles in the Park	Friday, August 15	12:00-2:00 p.m.	Sanborn Park	
Movie in the Park	Friday, August 22	8:00 p.m.	Hollingsworth Park	
Chamber of Commerce Meet and Greet	September	TBD	Downtown Robbinsdale	
Birdtown Boo Bash	October	TBD	TBD	

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Turf Grass Reduction



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Robbinsdale City Code

829.15. Weed and grass cutting

Subdivision 1. General rule.

The owner of property abutting on any public street or alley must maintain the property and abutting public property to the center of such platted street or alley. Weeds, including tall grass, that exceed eight inches in height, must be cut, destroyed or otherwise eradicated by the owner of the property. **Perennial native prairie vegetation including grasses and/or wildflowers as identified by the city Forester, installed as a primary component of an approved raingarden or a restored prairie, is excluded from this rule on a case-by-case basis.**

Subd. 2. Weed and grass cutting by the city.

The weed inspector shall cause the weeds to be cut and destroyed by city crews or private contractors as the inspector shall determine, including tall grass, that exceed eight inches in height that are growing on the property or within the platted limits of an abutting public street or alley when the vegetation is not cut by the property owners. **Grasses and/or wildflowers identified by the city Forester as native prairie species that exceed eight inches in height are exempt from this requirement.**

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Turf Grass Reduction

Rain Garden Planting

- Between mid-May and mid-June is ideal timing
- ~4 hour commitment
- Weekend OR weekday (daytime)
- Committee will propose some dates/times to staff

Native Plant Sale

- Organized by City Forester
- Partnership with Minnesota Native Landscapes
- \$60 each, 36 total plants
- Each kit will plant roughly 40-60 square feet
- Sale goes live in March
- Committee can assist with outreach and volunteer during pick-up dates (TBD)

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Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure



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Bike/Ped Infrastructure

Voice Your Support!

- Attend City Council meetings, public hearings, open houses, events, etc. and share your support with the City Council and staff.
- Every City Council meeting provides an opportunity for members of the public to address the City Council.
- Included in your agendas is a letter of support I have drafted. The letter indicates the Committee's support for the bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure included in the Shoreline Drive construction project. I am asking the Committee to edit the letter as you see fit and submit it to the Council at the next applicable City Council meeting.

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Commission



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Suggestions for Creating a Commission

1. Research other cities. What do their sustainability/environment/natural resources commissions look like?
 - a. Consider the members, terms, duties, purpose, meeting cadence, etc.
 - b. Start with neighboring cities and cities similar in size and/or demographics.
2. Look at Robbinsdale City Charter to understand our Commission structures.
3. Compile findings and suggest language and structure at an upcoming Committee meeting.

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Old Business - None



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Roundtable Updates



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MINUTES

ROLL CALL

Present: Greenberg, Hanelitz, Hansen, Hart, Heid, Lyng, Myers, Pendaz-Foster, Presler, Sande

Absent: None

Staff: Kayla Kirtz, Sustainability Coordinator; Richard McCoy, Public Works Director/City Engineer

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

A. November 20, 2024 Sustainability Committee Minutes

Presler motioned to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2024 Sustainability Committee Meeting and Hansen seconded. The meeting minutes were unanimously adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

A. A Conversation with Richard McCoy, Public Works Director/City Engineer

Kirtz and members of the Sustainability Committee provided McCoy with a variety of topics and questions in advance of the meeting. McCoy discussed those topics and questions with the group. Topics included:

- McCoy's role as the Public Works Director/City Engineer
- How this role intersects with the goals of the Sustainability Committee
- Water quality improvement efforts in the City
- PFAS in drinking water
- City environmental initiatives upcoming in 2025
- The 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan and its function
- Planning for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure
- Organized waste collection
- Light rail transit
- Boulevard vegetation
- Street lighting
- Barriers to sustainability priorities
- How the Committee can support efforts of City staff

McCoy referenced the Public Works and Engineering organizational chart, Robbinsdale Sustainability Committee's Top Priorities document, and the 10 Year Capital Improvement Plan.

The Committee and McCoy discussed organizing a tour of the flocculation plant. McCoy suggested that the Committee could help City staff by planting a rain garden. Kirtz and McCoy noted that they would be in touch about planning future events for the Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Top Priorities Action Plan

The Committee agreed to discuss organics recycling at the next meeting with the goal of demystifying organics recycling and making it more accessible to all residents. The Committee agreed they would send their ideas to Kirtz to prepare for the future discussion.

B. CCX Media - Organics Recycling

This topic of discussion was reserved for a future meeting.

INFORMATION ONLY

A. Roundtable Updates

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Kirtz adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Kayla Kirtz, Sustainability Coordinator

Date

Robbinsdale City Council
4100 Lakeview Avenue N
Robbinsdale, MN 55422

[Date] TBD

Dear Members of the City Council,

On behalf of the Robbinsdale Sustainability Committee, we are writing to express our strong support for the planned bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure as part of the upcoming street reconstruction project on Shoreline Drive. We believe that incorporating these features will not only enhance the safety and mobility of our community but will also align with our shared goals of promoting sustainable transportation and reducing our environmental footprint.

As a group of Robbinsdale residents committed to fostering a sustainable and livable community, we recognize the importance of ensuring that our streets are accessible to all modes of transportation. Expanding and improving bicycle lanes, sidewalks, and pedestrian crossings as part of this project will provide residents with more options for safe and efficient travel, reduce reliance on personal vehicles, and contribute to the overall health and well-being of our city.

Specifically, we strongly support:

- **The 10' wide shared use trail on the north side of Shoreline Drive from County Road 81 to 41st Avenue** that will offer a safer, more direct route for cyclists, encouraging more people to opt for this environmentally friendly mode of transportation.
- **The painting of designated pedestrian crosswalks and installation of a roundabout at Shoreline Drive and Chowen Avenue** to calm traffic and enhance safety for those on foot and bicycle, especially at key intersection.
- **Adjusted, well-maintained sidewalks** that will make walking safer and more accessible for pedestrians of all ages and abilities.

These improvements will provide lasting benefits, including reducing traffic congestion, lowering carbon emissions, and encouraging healthier lifestyles through increased physical activity. We are confident that this project will support a more vibrant, connected, and sustainable Robbinsdale.

We commend the City Council and the City's Engineering department for considering the integration of these important elements into the street reconstruction project. The Sustainability Committee is eager to lend our support and collaborate with you to ensure that the project maximizes its potential to serve our community's future transportation needs.

Thank you for your continued leadership in making Robbinsdale a more sustainable and connected place to live, work, and play.

Sincerely,

Members of the Robbinsdale Sustainability Committee:

Spencer Greenberg, Jonathan Hansen, Megan Hanelitz, Erin Hart, Nick Heid, Chris Lyng, Carol Myers, Sadie Pendaz-Foster, Mardell Presler, and Alyce Sande