



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

Sustainable La Crosse Commission

Thursday, August 18, 2016

4:00 PM

5th Floor Conference Room

Call to Order, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m. by Chairman Giese.

Present: 7 - Mike Giese, Martin Gaul, Harvey Bertrand, Dave Niemi, Tom Thompson, Dorothy Lenard, Rob Tyser

Absent: 2 - Jai Johnson, Rick Cornforth

Others Present: Steve O'Malley, Mike Nichols, Randy (HHW), Jason Gilman

1 [16-0817](#) Approval of July 21, 2016 Minutes

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Gaul, seconded by Lenard, to approve the July 21, 2016 meeting minutes. The motion carried by voice vote.

2 Public Comment

Randy on HHW: Admin will ask for a 25 cent per capita increase for HHW services. The committees comments were generally supportive and realized the program values.

Jason Gilman mentioned indicators report and water as being an important future consideration. Rob mentioned methane use from wastewater treatment could have a 7 year payback.

Agenda Items:

3 Staff Report & Information Updates

Mike discussed the Green Tier Program and how they County can be accepted as a Green Tier Community.

4 Discussion & Possible Action on Rules of Procedures

Mike submitted the draft rules and procedures for the Commission.

There was some discussion relative to getting the word out to attract interest in the

citizen position.

One staff support - Steve O'Malley mentioned staff need to be more deliberate in support of the Committee and the two year transition would facilitate that.

A motion was made by Thompson, seconded by Niemi, to approve procedures. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

5 Review of Commission Activities and Expenditures Over the Last 5 Years; Consideration of Goals and Expenditure Requests for 2017FY.

There was much discussion on the indicators report and how the Green Tier coordinator will be able to collect the data. Harvey also noted Onalaska's role and providing a list of things that should be done.

There was also discussion about the website staying up to date and having a staff person responsible for it.

Steve indicated he'd follow up with Jason on budget for the Commission considering the 2 year staff rotation.

Commission Reports:

Harvey - Xcel has committed to a solar farm in Wisconsin and whether or not the Commission should do anything to support it.

Rob asked about feasibility report on the wastewater treatment plant methane production.

Harvey - Sustainability promotion with chickens through the schools.

The Commission also suggested an ad-hoc subgroup of the Commission to work on an annual work plan to help support the request of the City and Council for funding and staff support.

A motion was made by Tyser, seconded by Gaul, to request \$7500 from the County for Sustainable La Crosse Commission for FY 2017 with three needs: indicators report, website, and powerpoint slideshow. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

A motion was made by Tyser, seconded by Bertrand, to allow chair to appoint a workgroup to create an articulated workplan. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

6 [16-0709](#)

Discussion and possible action on an urban food growing policy - Pam Hartwell, HUAC

Attachments: [Presentation](#)
 [Resolution](#)
 [La Crosse Food Growing Guide](#)
 [Community Garden Tool Kit](#)
 [Chicken Keeping Ordinance](#)
 [Livestock Ordinance](#)
 [Noxious Weed Ordinance](#)
 [Beekeeping Ordinance](#)

Pam Hartwell - the item was referred. The Commission will feed info to Lewis.

7 Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The next meeting is September 15, 2016.

Agenda items:

Tom announced the Community Resiliency Symposium on November 2 from 8 a.m. -4 p.m. in the Lunda Center at Western Technical College.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Gaul, seconded by Lenard, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Notice is further given that members of other governmental bodies may be present at the above scheduled meeting to gather information about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibility.

NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY

Requests from persons with a disability who need assistance to participate in this meeting should call the City Clerk's office at (608) 789-7510 or send an email to ADAcityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org, with as much advance notice as possible.