



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

Climate Action Plan Steering Committee

Thursday, June 24, 2021

4:30 PM

Virtual Meeting Room

In efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19, this meeting will be conducted through video conferencing.

The

meeting can be viewed by clicking this link (or typing the URL in your web browser address bar):

<https://stream.lifesizecloud.com/extension/4857797/a8c61270-e220-4ad3-a234-c76d9d7dde51>

If you wish to speak on an agenda item, you can do so as part of the virtual meeting. Contact the Planning &

Development Department at the email or phone number below so we can provide you with the necessary information to join in.

Members of the public who would like to provide written comments on any agenda may do so by emailing kuhlmanl@cityoflacrosse.org, using a drop box outside of City Hall or mailing the Planning & Development Department, 400 La Crosse Street, La Crosse WI 54601. Questions, call 608-789-7361.

Call to Order

Staff called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Cathy Van Maren, Susanna Hanson, Mackenzie Mindel

Excused: 2 - Dorothy Lenard, Casey Meehan

Approval of Minutes

Van Maren motioned to approve the minutes, Mindel seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

Agenda Items:

1 Elect chairperson and vice-chairperson

Last meeting, there was not a Mayoral appointee on the committee, so the committee held off on electing a chairperson until now. CM Mindel gets the first right of refusal to be the chairperson. Mindel accepted. Van Maren volunteered to serve as vice chairperson. There were no other nominations.

Mindel was elected chairperson and Van Maren was elected vice chairperson.

2 [21-0965](#)

Discuss proposals and select consultants to interview

Attachments: [Brendle Group Team Proposal](#)
[Elevate Proposal](#)
[GDS Proposal](#)
[GRAEF Proposal](#)
[GZA Proposal](#)
[Map-Collective, Inc. Proposal](#)
[paleBLUEdot Proposal](#)
[Slipstream Proposal](#)
[Sustainserv Proposal](#)
[Verdis Group Proposal](#)
[Selection Criteria Worksheet](#)

The submission deadline for proposals was Friday, June 18th. Staff received ten proposals and passed them along to the committee on Tuesday, June 22nd. Two days was not enough time to review all the proposals adequately, so staff suggested adjusting the RFP schedule to allow for more review time, and meeting Thursday, July 15th. Interviews the next week (July 19-23) and staff would announce the selection by the end of that week. The contract would then likely be approved by the Common Council on September 9th.

Van Maren suggested following up with excused members as well to see if they had any questions and share the answers with the rest of the committee. She also asked about giving extra points for women- or minority-owned businesses. That wasn't in the RFP criteria, so wouldn't be a formal evaluation criteria, but could be discussed at the next meeting.

Hanson motioned to refer this item to July 15th, Van Maren seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

3 [21-0967](#)

Review Cleveland's Climate Action Plan Equity Tool for consideration to adapt for La Crosse's CAP

Attachments: [Racial Equity Tool](#)
[Review Worksheet](#)

Sustainability interns have reviewed equity tools that other communities have used. Cleveland's Racial Equity Tool would be the best starting point for creating a tool for La Crosse's Climate Action Plan. An intern came up with several questions that should help the committee decide what changes could be made. Staff suggested reviewing the equity tool and worksheet before the August meeting, so the committee can give direction for a draft version to incorporate into the CAP process.

Mindel asked if La Crosse was a member of Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE). If so, can the committee leverage its membership to improve equity in the process and outcomes for this plan? Staff will look into it. Van Maren asked if the equity tool included low-income people? That appears to be the intention of Cleveland's tool. Hanson suggested just calling it an equity tool. Mindel wanted to make sure the committee would be centering race and social justice in the tool and thinking about disproportionate impacts. Van Mare also reminded to include people with disabilities.

- 4 [21-0815](#) Presentation and discussion on Eau Claire's Renewable Energy Action Plan - Van Maren

Attachments: [REAP Executive Summary](#)

Van Maren wanted to share some of the wealth of work already being done, starting with Eau Claire. Other communities are doing the work and La Crosse can follow in their footsteps. La Crosse also needs to be taking action while the planning process is going forward. Hanson was curious if anyone has or will quantify the effect the pandemic has had on telecommuting as business is returning to normal. Likewise, Mindel is interested in how retail and work looks now. She also appreciated the "easy wins" in the attached document. Van Maren urged more education and outreach, suggesting City involvement in upcoming Ask Me About My Electric Vehicle event coming up. Staff mentioned working with interns to take action on their research recommendations instead of waiting for CAP completion. Mindel asked for direction on education and outreach. Staff brought up Strategic Plan for Sustainability progress report from May's meeting that shows completed tasks that could be touted.

Next Meeting / Agenda Items

The next meeting will be 7/15 and will include a review of proposals and selection of consultants for interviews. The committee will discuss the equity tool on 8/19.

Adjournment

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.