



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

Climate Action Plan Steering Committee

Monday, November 13, 2023

4:30 PM

Eagle Room

This meeting will also be conducted through video conferencing.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://cityoflacrosse-org.zoom.us/j/83963386607?pwd=QlkvVG1EMm8vK2d6aXFrdWgyYXNaZz09>

Meeting ID: 839 6338 6607 Passcode: 419317

Join by Phone: +1-305-224-1968

Call to Order

Van Maren called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm.

Roll Call

Present: 5 - Cathy Van Maren, Casey Meehan, Natalie Heneghan, Andrew Ericson, Ronald Cosby II

Excused: 2 - Dorothy Lenard, Mackenzie Mindel

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Meehan, seconded by Cosby II, that these minutes be APPROVED . The motion carried by voice vote.

Notices and Discussion

Staff shared that the Public Service Commission rejected a proposal from Madison Gas & Electric that would change net metering. Also, the State legislature will soon be introducing legislation on per-kW fees for Electric Vehicle charging, which would impact publicly-owned EV chargers.

Van Maren shared that there would be a tour and discussion on EVs at Western Technical College on 11/14 at 11 to noon.

Agenda Items:

- 1 [23-1368](#) Request for letter of support for La Crescent's Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Grant.

Attachments: [Sample Letter of Support](#)

A motion was made by Meehan, seconded by Cosby II, that this Request be APPROVED . The motion carried by voice vote.

2 [23-1184](#)

Discussion and Updates from Working Groups

Staff shared guidance on using the implementation plan. Working group 1 is working separately on proposals. Van Maren is awaiting guidance from the transit director. Crosby is working on a proposal to map building energy footprint for the city, along with EV education and incentives. Working group 2 is meeting with Habitat for Humanity and Couleecap regarding energy efficiency. Working group 3 is figuring out how to get more trees planted in distressed areas.

3 [23-1369](#)

Request to pursue Thrive Earth Exchange project on community support networks in times of extreme weather.

A motion was made by Ericson, seconded by Heneghan, that this Request be APPROVED . The motion carried by voice vote.

4 [23-1370](#)

Direction and action on possible workshop with Climate Alliance for the Common Good in January

Staff gave overview of event. Crosby suggested sharing working group projects at event. Van Maren suggested talking about implementation actions. Staff also mentioned Wisconsin Clean Cities and Xcel Energy were looking at doing a ride & drive event in December.

A motion was made by Cosby II, seconded by Meehan, that this General Item be APPROVED . The motion carried by voice vote.

5 [23-1065](#)

Climate Action Plan Implementation Budget Update

Attachments: [November Status](#)
 [September Status](#)

Staff shared some suggestions for spending, including a GHG inventory, bike share station sponsorship, and SMRT bus sponsorship. Ericson suggested a zoning code update, but that would cost more than the budget. Staff suggested pre-approved, energy efficient ADU plans. Van Maren suggested bike hangars. Meehan suggested spending more on promoting Bright Action. Tom Schlesinger suggested making information available on incentives for heat pumps.

6 [23-1011](#)

Direction on Solar*Connect Community Program Subscription Pre-Approval

Attachments: [Memo \(Aug 2023\)](#)
 [Contract](#)
 [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
 [Webpage](#)
 [Memo Addendum \(Oct 2023\)](#)

Staff shared that the waiting list came back around for 4.6 kW at \$3,000.

No action taken.

- 7 [23-1371](#) Request to join Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN)

Attachments: [Introduction to USDN](#)

A motion was made by Ericson, seconded by Meehan, that this Request be APPROVED . The motion carried by voice vote.

Next Meeting / Agenda Items

The next meeting is 12/11 @ 4:30 pm. Agenda items may include budget proposals for the Capital Budget and for spending the rest of this year's budget. Van Maren suggested talking about Earth Fair and connecting with other groups.

Adjournment

Van Maren adjourned the meeting at 5:31 pm.

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.