



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

Climate Action Plan Steering Committee

Thursday, June 16, 2022

4:30 PM

Grandad Room

This meeting will also 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

Mindel called the meeting to order at 4:31 pm

Roll Call

Present: 4 - Dorothy Lenard, Cathy Van Maren, Susanna Hanson, Mackenzie Mindel

Excused: 1 - Casey Meehan

Approval of Minutes

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

Agenda Items:

- 1 [22-0760](#) Presentation on Public Health Capstone Climate Change Workbook and Request for Follow Up Feedback - Jeni Walker Bailey

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

*Bailey went over her presentation. Van Maren suggested including actions that people can take in the mental health section so they don't feel helpless; she also suggested looking at connections between different actions. Staff suggested adding a piece about social bonds and community building in resiliency, since research has shown heat wave deaths in Chicago were related to social isolation. Lenard suggested it could help young people cope with climate despair. Van Maren recommended *The Tantrum that Save the World*. Mindel could connect Bailey with Meehan regarding his climate game. Van Maren suggested looking at broader issues like when producers*

shift blame to consumers for pollution.

- 2 [22-0427](#) Resolution declaring a climate emergency, committing to policies opposing fossil fuel expansion and accelerating the clean energy transition, and endorsing the call for a global fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty.

Attachments: [Resolution](#)
[Letter of Support - Gorski - 5.21.2022](#)
[Support Letter - K. Allen - 5.30.2022](#)
[Support Letter - C. Van Maren - 5.31.2022](#)
[Support Letter - L. Herling - 5.31.2022](#)
[Committee Registration Slips - 5.31.2022](#)
[Support Letter - B. Moore - 6.5.2022](#)
[The Fossil Fuel Nonproliferation Treaty Webpage](#)

Janssen provided reasoning from suggested changes including new council members, forthcoming Climate Action Plan (CAP) draft, and desire for action steps rather than policy direction; stated neutral language would be more effecting; wording is important if you want to bring people along. Lenard agreed that there's no reason to include inflammatory language; suggested adding forest fires to key issues. Janssen would rather see CAPSC make revisions than for her to introduce her own amendment. Mindel wanted the resolution to go beyond the 2019 carbon neutrality resolutions; suggested amendments take out any substance; amendments raise concern over commitment to actually reaching carbon neutrality by 2050. Council needs to be accountable. Lenard supports a commitment to changes in fossil fuel use. Staff clarified that greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, which comes from burning fossil fuels; that connection needs to be understood. Mindel shared that Judiciary & Administration Committee members were nervous about local economy and perception of negativity; City can't meet its CAP goals without phasing out fossil fuels. Janssen requested action items, like a to-do list. Staff was concerned about wasting time on developing policy that wouldn't be supported and felt this resolution is an indicator of future commitment and support. Van Maren stated that we need to be honest about not burning fossil fuels. Janssen suggested considering what reaction the Council would get from WIZM listeners and CM Happel when drafting legislation; it doesn't need to be rushed. Mindel indicated future legislation would go into expansion of electrification and non-carbon sources of energy. Van Maren agreed that the City's vehicle fleet needs to shift to electric.

Staff asked for amendments from the committee over the next 2 weeks; would provide synthesis and work on revisions with CM Mindel.

- 3 [22-0827](#) June Climate Action Plan Workshops Update and Discussion

Revision in the ActionFinder were disabled on 6/14 for the consulting team to create a draft CAP. Staff will see if it is possible and how to review for gaps and make suggestions.

- 4 [22-0831](#) June Partners in Energy Outreach and Engagement

Attachments: [EV Toolkit](#)

Staff will be drafting policy based on electric vehicle toolkit implementation.

5 [22-0832](#) Discussion on Community Events at Which to Share Climate Action Planning Process Information - Van Maren

Solar on La Crosse Schools Show and Tell on 6/20. 6/21 Bike tour. Plastic Free July Events, including screening of Story of Plastic. Van Maren will share info at Juneteenth. Other events may include Riverfest, Irishfest, farmers markets. Staff will ask CAP consultant about cards to solicit feedback on draft plan.

Adjournment

Mindel adjourned the meeting at 6:01 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.