



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

Climate Action Plan Steering Committee

Monday, June 9, 2025

4:00 PM

Eagle Room

This meeting will also be conducted through video conferencing.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://cityoflacrosse-org.zoom.us/j/89556262687?pwd=TmZYMQRWEj7sOuWitzv04sLbpMOYp5.1>

Meeting ID: 895 5626 2687 Passcode: 102161

Join by Phone: +1-507-473-4847

Call to Order

Mindel called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM.

Roll Call

Present: 5 - Andrew Ericson, Mackenzie Mindel, Natalie Heneghan, Dorothy Lenard, Casey Meehan

Excused: 1 - Stephanie Hanna

Absent: 1 - Adam Jacobson

Approval of Minutes

Lenard motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Meehan. The motion carried by a voice vote.

Notices and Discussion

Agenda Items:

1 [25-0427](#) Youth Climate Action Fund Micro-Grant Application Review and Selection

Staff provided an overview of the Youth Climate Action Fund and remaining funds to grant (~\$39,000). There are twelve applications up for consideration this meeting and staff recommended the committee vote on all grants at once rather than one at a time, due to the limited amount of funds. Ericson arrived at 4:07 PM.

The committee posed questions to Kaarina Dunn regarding her application. About 20 youth will be able to attend the camp and sessions will be just under 7 hours a day. Camp counselors will be 15-24 years old and incentivizing youth participation is an eligible expense, so that would be covered. All liability costs are covered by the sites

and individuals will be responsible for their own transportation.

The committee posed questions to the Farmers Market applicants.

The committee posed questions to the Cia Siab applicants.

The committee posed questions to Juliana Dunn regarding her application.

Ericson posed questions regarding Christina Mehrkins' application and eligibility requirements in general.

Meehan posed questions about Drift Cycle applications. The committee discussed the remaining applications. Staff listed rank of applicants based on scoring spreadsheet with consideration of eligibility and possibility of alternative funding sources. The Committee could decide to use its budget to cover unfunded grants, but staff would have to get direction from Finance whether they are eligible.

2 [25-0648](#)

Presentation and discussion about Parks' seasonal sustainability programs - Sami Meyer

Attachments: [Presentation Slides](#)

Meyer gave an overview of Parks' sustainability programs: Leaf It (Fall), Salt Smart (Winter), Grow Green (Spring), Soak It Up (Summer), and Beautify La Crosse. Rain barrel giveaway event from 4-6 PM on 6/25 at the Myrick Park Shelter. A compost bin giveaway as part of Leaf It is being planned. Meehan asked what the committee do to help; members can spread the word via social media, and the committee can fund Parks programs that align with the plan, such as the compost bin giveaway. Heneghan asked about how to turn programs into policy. Regarding Grow Green, there are recommendations in the CAP for native lawn pilot projects and ordinances. Likewise, staff is considering ways to systematize composting. Meyer suggested positive reinforcement through incentives as well. Fitchburg has some good examples of sustainable policies. Mindel asked about Street's salt and brine use. They have a few brine trucks to pre-treat streets, and they are onboard with reducing salt use (and save money). Mindel likened addressing water rate increases by reducing use. Mindel asked about tree planting and stewardship. Parks got a grant for a tree preservation ordinance for public trees. Meyer talked about budgeting. City foresters planted over 300 street trees last year. Mindel suggested collaboration on social media.

3 [25-0650](#)

Review of zoning actions recommended in the Climate Action Plan.

Ericson had suggested CAP zoning recommendations for this year's implementation plan. There is a website and newsletter for the zoning code update and there is survey out now. Staff cited transit-oriented development as one of the biggest opportunities. Staff recommended looking at other communities for model ordinances to emulate. Mindel shared example of Middleton who incorporated LEED for Cities recommendation. Heneghan mentioned that Middleton's presentation on the La Crosse Housing Week website. She also suggested reaching out to folks already engaged in the City's sustainability issues to share the importance of zoning and act in support of reform. Lenard suggested collaboration with the County, who is in charge of zoning for neighboring towns. The zoning code update would just change what is allowed in the future and current uses are considered legally nonconforming.

Next Meeting / Agenda Items

Adjournment

Mindel adjourned the meeting at 6 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.