

**CITY OF EAU CLAIRE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2018**

MISSION:

"To assure the common good through services essential for a safe, sustainable, engaged and healthy community."

DATE: January 16, 2018

TIME: 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION: City Hall, N. Conf. Rm.

CHAIR: Brian Larson, Chair

RECORDER: Ned Noel, Associate Planner

Members Present: Kate Hartsel, Gina Keenan, Brian Larson, Anna Moehagen, Crispin Pierce, Jim Schumacher, Steve Terwilliger

Also in attendance: Ashley Pike and Jeremy Gragert

AGENDA ITEM #1: Call to Order

Mr. Larson called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM #2: Approve December 19, 2017 Meetings Minutes

Mr. Terwilliger motioned to approve the December meeting minutes. Seconded by Mr. Schumacher and the motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM #3: Proposal Adopting Major Recommendations of the Executive Summary Report in Support of the Paris Climate Agreement

Mr. Noel shared that the City Council on January 8th reviewed the report and asked questions. It is not certain if council will take up a vote on the recommendations but the committee will be kept up to date.

He also reviewed a proposal that contained background information on why supporting renewables and carbon reductions is good for the economy and health.

Members agreed that the background information is helpful if there are more questions. They believed it would be useful also to show support at a future public hearing, if the recommendations are taken up by council members.

AGENDA ITEM #4: Partners for Places Grant Discussion

Mr. Noel outlined a possible grant to cover expense for a climate and energy action plan. There is a quick turnaround though so odds are slim that the City can obtain a commitment from a local community-based charitable organization. This is a requirement of the grant so deeper community engagement and equity considerations are met.

Members noted several local organizations to contact and Mr. Noel will reach out to see if they would like to partner as part of the grant application.

AGENDA ITEM #5: Amend 2018 Work Plan

Members agreed that it would be a useful project to development best practices around energy and low-emission carbon planning for buildings and development sites. A brochure or handout may be most efficient to create. An example was shared from Milwaukee concerning their "eco-design" guidelines.

Ms. Hartsel motioned to approve the amended work plan with the additional task. Seconded by Ms. Keenan and the motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM #6: Presentation on Native Landscaping

Ms. Moehagen presented research on native landscaping as well as lessons learned from her own project. American lawns represent about the size of Texas and are water, chemical, and energy intensive to maintain. Biodiversity is lost as well. A native sustainable lawn done right offers wins in many of these categories. There are concerns though about appearance and increase of tick habitat. She explained "biophilic landscaping" tries to balance human, psychology, aesthetics and ecosystem health. Several attractive examples were shown and ones that blended native plants into regular lawns.

Pertinent local codes were reviewed seeking opportunities for change. The waiver for native lawns was seen as a plus, but a more clear process was suggested and to clarify who the City point of contact is so the public know where to start when researching what is feasible.

Partnerships could be developed with landscaping companies, Beaver Creek Nature Preserve, UW-Extension or Master Gardeners to offer education and spread awareness. Other points were raised about possibly offering a rebate for installation of native lawns, creating more native lawns on public properties, or enacting water restrictions. An example from Eden Prairie was shared regarding water quality rebates and time-of-use watering bans.

There was discussion on how to quantify locally what maintaining non-native bluegrass lawns verses a native lawn would cost in terms of dollars, energy, water, chemicals, carbon emissions and sequestration.

The committee concluded it should play a greater role in developing awareness and possible incentives or a demonstration site to increase native lawns in the city.

AGENDA ITEM #7: Brief Updates

Mr. Terwilliger was in touch with a micro-transit company to understand if Eau Claire would be a good community for on-demand ride-share transit. A future staff conference call will be setup to learn more.

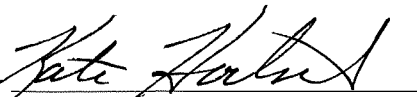
AGENDA ITEM #8: Future Agenda Items & Meeting Dates

None.

AGENDA ITEM #9: Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:



Kate Hartsel, Secretary

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

• February 20, 2018

TIME:

• 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION:

• N. Conf. Rm.

February 15, 2018

PUBLIC NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City of Eau Claire's Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting at 3:30 p.m. on February 20, 2018 in the North Conference Room at City Hall, 203 S. Farwell, Eau Claire, WI 54701, has been cancelled for lack of business items.

For further information, please contact Associate Planner, Ned Noel at 715-839-4914.

This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of Subchapter V of Chapter 19 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

Notice is hereby given that members of the Eau Claire City Council may be present at the foregoing meeting to gather information about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibility. This may constitute a meeting of the Eau Claire City Council pursuant to State ex rel. Badke v. Greendale Village Bd., 173 Wis.2d 553, 494 N.W.2d 408 (1993) and must be noticed as such, although the Council will not take any formal action at this meeting.

In order to accommodate the participation of persons with special needs at this meeting, the City will provide the services of a sign language interpreter or make other reasonable accommodations on request. To make such a request, please notify the City at 715-839-4902 at least two days prior to the meeting.

**CITY OF EAU CLAIRE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2018**

MISSION:

"To assure the common good through services essential for a safe, sustainable, engaged and healthy community."

DATE: March 20, 2018

TIME: 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION: City Hall, N. Conf. Rm.

CHAIR: Brian Larson, Chair

RECORDER: Ned Noel, Associate Planner

Members Present: Dan Anderson, Kate Hartsel, Brian Larson, Crispin Pierce, Jim Schumacher, Steve Terwilliger

Also in attendance: Jeremy Gragert

AGENDA ITEM #1: Call to Order

Mr. Larson called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

The committee recognized Mr. Anderson for his service, as his second and final term will conclude. Mr. Anderson stated he enjoyed working with the committee and accomplishing all they did together.

AGENDA ITEM #2: Approve January 16, 2018 Meetings Minutes

Mr. Terwilliger motioned to approve the January meeting minutes. Seconded by Mr. Pierce and the motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM #3: Review 2018 Work Plan

Each task on the annual work plan was reviewed. The City Council will consider approving the work plan at their March 27th meeting. A progress report for 2017 will also be provided to council.

AGENDA ITEM #4: Climate & Energy Action Planning Discussion

Mr. Noel recognized the hard work of the committee in assisting the City Council to adopt 100% renewable energy and carbon neutrality goals by 2050. These goals were adopted on March 13th, 2018.

Committee members brainstormed over the possibility of creating a climate and energy action plan. If City Council directs to undertake such an effort, what would it achieve and what would the process entail. The ultimate goal would be to lay out a vision(s) of how to reach carbon neutrality and 100% renewable energy by 2050. The incremental carbon emission drawdown targets (5% by 2020, 25% by 2030, etc.) passed also by council provides good framework to achieve reductions in phases. The plan should outline very practical steps for the city and community to make decreases in carbon emissions and increases in renewables. The executive summary report that the council ordered related to supporting the Paris Agreement lists many strategies to consider and should be used as a guide. It was agreed that developing or finding tools like carbon footprint calculators (for buildings, vehicles, etc.) will be useful. They could assist both the city and citizens to see real impact from the decisions they have made or are contemplating.

Mr. Noel shared a draft timeline where the planning process would begin in the fall of 2018 and conclude at the latest by mid-2019. It was still unclear how the meeting process should unfold and so it was suggested to develop a mock meeting schedule to understand how much commitment it might take from staff, committee members and the community.

Members thought stakeholder engagement from all sectors of the local community should be involved in the process. Addressing equity concerns for the underrepresented was stated as an important goal. Four key emission sectors should be covered (energy, buildings/land use, transportation and waste). Representatives from each sector should be invited to focus meetings to detail the particular opportunities and challenges. Members stated it would be good to envision what engaging one sector could look like and then refine the engagement approach. A draft example concerning the building sector was decided to be a good place to begin. Mr. Noel will mock up an example for feedback.

Mr. Gragert stated he will be applying for a grant that could help increase civic engagement and address equity concerns during the planning process. Members thought additional outside assistance could really assist to get people to the table since staff has some limitations. There was caution that if a grant is able to help, that it should be separate from the official City process so as to not confuse efforts.

AGENDA ITEM #5: Earth Day Week Fair Discussion

An invitation to participate was given to the committee for the Chippewa Valley Sustainability Fair. A few members were interested in helping to judge a middle school science fair contest.

AGENDA ITEM #6: Native Landscaping Potential Project

Mr. Noel stated there may be an opportunity to work with the Randall Park Neighborhood Association and its Neighborhood Revitalization Corporation to beautiful City-owned FEMA floodplain land. The neighborhood is looking into funding options and seeking initial approval from the City.

The committee was supportive of possibly working with the neighborhood to showcase native landscaping. Members could volunteer if the neighborhood gains approval from the City. If the timing works out, plants and no-mow grasses could be bought from the Beaver Creek Reserve native plant sale.

AGENDA ITEM #7: Brief Updates

- **Municipal solar projects**

Mr. Noel stated the City has selected a consultant to perform a feasibility study for solar on various municipal properties. The study and its economic findings should be completed by mid-April.

- **Micro Transit / Transit Development Plan / TIGER grant**

Mr. Noel shared that the City was successful in obtaining an approximate \$5 million federal DOT grant for a new transit center. He highlighted the section of the application that covered environmental sustainability. Both solar and electric vehicle charging will be considered as part of the project. He and the City Transit Manager have been meeting with micro-transit companies and learning from cities who are implementing the on-demand service. Micro-transit will be studied in the upcoming update to the Transit Development Plan. The plan should be starting in the fall.


AGENDA ITEM #8: Future Agenda Items & Meeting Dates

None.

AGENDA ITEM #9: Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:


Kate Hartsel, Secretary

**CITY OF EAU CLAIRE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2018**

MISSION:

"To assure the common good through services essential for a safe, sustainable, engaged and healthy community."

DATE: April 17, 2018

TIME: 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION: City Hall, N. Conf. Rm.

CHAIR: Brian Larson, Chair

RECORDER: Ned Noel, Associate Planner

Members Present: Kate Hartsel, Gina Keenan, Brian Larson, Anna Moehagen, Crispin Pierce, Jim Schumacher, Steve Terwilliger

AGENDA ITEM #1: Call to Order

Mr. Larson called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM #2: Approve March 20, 2018 Meetings Minutes

Ms. Hartsel moved to approve the March meeting minutes. Seconded by Mr. Schumacher and the motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM #3: Officer Elections

Ms. Keenan moved to approve Mr. Larson as chair, Mr. Pierce as vice chair, and Ms. Hartsel as secretary. Seconded by Mr. Terwilliger and the motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM #4: Review Approved 2018 Work Plan & 2017 Progress Report

Each project was briefly reviewed again since City Council approved the work plan in late March. There was also discussion over the election changes to four seats on council and how that might impact the work of the committee.

AGENDA ITEM #5: Sustainability Awards Discussion

Since the work plan was approved at the end of the 1st quarter, issuance of the awards was delayed. Members thought to move the ceremony to mid/late summer to possibly coincide with the start of the climate and energy action plan.

There was discussion on featuring winners related back to the yearly theme of "Towards Renewable Energy" and reducing carbon emissions. Mr. Noel will outline a process for SAC to consider at their next meeting. Members were encouraged to find calendar dates with environmental themes.

AGENDA ITEM #6: Native Landscaping Next Steps

The Historic Randall Park Neighborhood Association has invited SAC assistance on their plans to transform vacant FEMA land within their neighborhood. The property is across from Owen Park between Niagara and Chippewa Streets. Members were eager to help and to possibly use the project to educate the community. Other examples of projects in town were shared such as at Corydon Park.

Mr. Noel stated City staff will be meeting with neighborhood representations soon to understand what their goals are and what the City may allow. He will bring back information to the committee to consider next steps.

AGENDA ITEM #7: Climate & Energy Action Planning Discussion

Based on previous SAC direction, a meeting schedule draft and building sector focus engagement meeting notice were prepared and discussed. The public participation plan was supported as well as the building sector example.

Members discussed difference Midwest examples of planning processes from St. Paul, Minneapolis and communities in Michigan.

Mr. Noel will bring for the next meeting a spreadsheet to start outlining the steering committee members and technical advisory group representatives.

AGENDA ITEM #8: Brief Updates

Mr. Noel stated the City is undertaking a solar feasibility study for numerous sites and the study should be completed by the end of the month.

Mr. Terwilliger provided an update on property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing from a recent economic development meeting he attended.

AGENDA ITEM #9: Future Agenda Items & Meeting Dates

None.

AGENDA ITEM #10: Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:


Kate Hartsel, Secretary

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

- May 15, 2018

TIME:

- 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION:

- N. Conf. Rm.

**CITY OF EAU CLAIRE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2018**

MISSION:

"To assure the common good through services essential for a safe, sustainable, engaged and healthy community."

DATE: May 15, 2018

TIME: 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION: City Hall, N. Conf. Rm.

CHAIR: Brian Larson, Chair

RECORDER: Ned Noel, Associate Planner

Members Present: Kate Hartsel, Gina Keenan, Brian Larson, Anna Moehagen, Crispin Pierce, Jim Schumacher, Steve Terwilliger

Also in attendance: Scott Allen and Tyrel Zich

AGENDA ITEM #1: Call to Order

Mr. Larson called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM #2: Approve April 17, 2018 Meetings Minutes

Ms. Hartsel moved to approve the April 17th meeting minutes. Seconded by Mr. Pierce and the motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM #3: Sustainability Awards Application

Mr. Noel described a recommended timeline. Applications would be available by late May/early June and due back by July 8th so the committee could vote on winners at its July 17th meeting.

Members agreed to hold a recognition ceremony on August 29th at 11 a.m. and that it would replace its regular August 21st meeting. The theme of the awards will be "Towards Renewable Energy" to stay aligned with the annual work program's theme.

AGENDA ITEM #4: Climate and Energy Action Planning

Mr. Noel highlighted an example of a plan from Austin, Texas. He went through a draft meeting schedule that outlined various public input opportunities. The process is envisioned to take a year and could start as early as September. A steering committee would be formed and sub-committee technical advisory groups or TAGs. Some TAG members would crossover with the larger steering committee, but these expert groups are meant to detail solutions. They would report back to the larger committee with their recommendations.

Members agreed that the draft public participation plan would be effective. They suggested several names on a draft list of potential committee and TAG participants.

AGENDA ITEM #5: Native Landscaping Site Design

Mr. Noel stated the City's Park Division is initially supportive of the Historic Randall Park Neighborhood request to turn a City-owned FEMA floodplain parcel (that lies between Chippewa and Niagara streets) into a community space. Historic Randall Park has sought design assistance from the committee.

Members shared they would like to help but the neighborhood first needs to perform a soil analysis to understand what vegetation could be planted. This will inform the design budget of the space for both passive and active use. They recommended getting in touch with the local Master Gardeners or UW-Extension Office to get the soil analysis completed.

Mr. Noel will reach out to the neighborhood contact to relay the advice. He also shared an article in the Leader Telegram that member Pierce wrote concerning native landscaping.

AGENDA ITEM #6: Brief Updates

- ICLEI World Congress

Mr. Noel noted he will be attending this international conference in Montreal over June 19th through June 22nd. He will provide a report afterwards at the July 17th meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #7: Future Agenda Items & Meeting Dates

The June 19th regular meeting will be cancelled due to staff attending the ICLEI World Congress.

AGENDA ITEM #8: Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES



Kate Hartsel, Secretary

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

- July 17, 2018

TIME:

- 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION:

- N. Conf. Rm.

June 14, 2018

PUBLIC NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City of Eau Claire's Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting at 3:30 p.m. on June 19, 2018 in the North Conference Room at City Hall, 203 S. Farwell, Eau Claire, WI 54701, has been cancelled for lack of business items.

For further information, please contact Associate Planner, Ned Noel at 715-839-4914.

This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of Subchapter V of Chapter 19 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

Notice is hereby given that members of the Eau Claire City Council may be present at the foregoing meeting to gather information about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibility. This may constitute a meeting of the Eau Claire City Council pursuant to State ex rel. Badke v. Greendale Village Bd., 173 Wis.2d 553, 494 N.W.2d 408 (1993) and must be noticed as such, although the Council will not take any formal action at this meeting.

In order to accommodate the participation of persons with special needs at this meeting, the City will provide the services of a sign language interpreter or make other reasonable accommodations on request. To make such a request, please notify the City at 715-839-4902 at least two days prior to the meeting.

**CITY OF EAU CLAIRE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes
July 17, 2018**

MISSION:

"To assure the common good through services essential for a safe, sustainable, engaged and healthy community."

DATE: July 17, 2018 **TIME:** 3:30 p.m. **LOCATION:** L.E. Phillips Memorial Library, Chippewa Rm.

CHAIR: Brian Larson, Chair **RECORDER:** Ned Noel, Associate Planner

Members Present: Brian Graff, Gina Keenan, Anna Moehagen, Crispin Pierce, Jim Schumacher, Dody Wubker

Also in attendance: None.

AGENDA ITEM #1: Call to Order

Vice Chair, Mr. Pierce called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM #2: Approve May 15, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Wubker moved to approve the May minutes. Seconded by Mr. Schumacher and the motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM #3: Sustainability Awards Applications

The annual recognition ceremony will be held August 29th at 11 a.m. and will replace SAC's regular August meeting. The theme will be "Towards Renewable Energy" to stay aligned with the annual work program's theme. Mr. Noel described the various applications submitted this year.

Mr. Schumacher moved to approve the following list to receive awards for 2018. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pierce. Ms. Moehagen abstained from the Xcel Energy votes.

Energy: Renewables, Efficiency or Conservation – Focus On Energy

Energy: Renewables, Efficiency or Conservation – Xcel Energy

Energy: Renewables, Efficiency or Conservation – David Donovan, Xcel Energy

Environmental Education – Volume One

Exceptional Natural Resources Steward – Royal Credit Union

Exceptional Natural Resources Steward – Patty Scott

Exceptional Natural Resources Steward – Mark Ruddy

Green Products or Practices – Huebsch Services

Sustainable City Staff – Jeff Pippenger

AGENDA ITEM #4: Climate & Energy Action Planning Update

Mr. Noel explained that the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) has a grant opportunity that would help to fund the plan. City Council has authorized staff to apply and the grant submittal is due on July 30th. Staff anticipates hearing if the City got the grant in September.

Xcel Energy will be involved via data analysis, planning and implementation solutions. The City will lead efforts, but anticipates working together under their program called Partners in Energy (PiE). An example plan from Winona, MN was shared. Staff has reached out to Eau Claire Energy Cooperative also to make sure they are involved in the comprehensive public participation process.

Major components of the plan will feature how to arrive at 100% renewable energy by 2050, a municipal facility conditions assessment, electric vehicles and charging station suitability studies, and a net-zero emission and energy construction guide with impact calculators.

AGENDA ITEM #5: ICLEI World Congress Report

Mr. Noel shared over June 19th – 22nd he attended the ICLEI World Congress in Montreal, Canada. The congress meets every three years. A number of good networking contacts were made. He highlighted what cities around the world are doing on sustainability. In particular, he learned about what the financial and insurance sectors are doing related to green bonding and climate change risk impacts. Riding on Montreal’s fully electric bus was an instructive experience to consider for Eau Claire.

AGENDA ITEM #6: Native Landscaping Next Steps

Staff provided committee feedback to Historic Randall Park Neighborhood requesting a soil analysis. The subject site is the City-owned FEMA floodplain parcel that lies between Chippewa and Niagara streets. Nothing was given to staff so it is unlikely the land will be landscaped this year.

The committee reviewed the work plan concerning native landscaping. It states: “Explore opportunities for education and incentives. Create a demo site for educational purposes.” So far, Mr. Pierce has written an article in the Leader Telegram. It covered what is allowed with background on what to plant.

Members discussed helping the public better understand the process for a lawn waiver. A checklist could be developed to assist and example plans shared. Mr. Noel will review the current process and provide additional information at the next meeting. Mr. Pierce will share photos of his property.

AGENDA ITEM #7: Brief Updates

- **Renewable Energy**

Mr. Noel stated the City has completed a feasibility study for municipal solar projects. The City’s proposed Capital Improvement Plan (2019-2023) has funding allocated for possible projects.

- **Carbon Footprints**

Staff continues to update the 2015 baseline carbon footprints. They will serve as the basis to judge change over the goals passed by City Council in March. A five percent reduction in greenhouse gases is the near-term target by 2020 for the municipality and community.

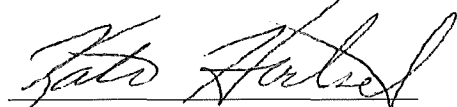
AGENDA ITEM #8: Future Agenda Items & Meeting Dates

The August 21st regular meeting will be cancelled so the awards ceremony can be held on August 29th.

AGENDA ITEM #9: Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES



Kate Hartsel, Secretary

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

- September 18, 2018

TIME:

- 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION:

- Library, Chippewa Rm.

August 16, 2018

PUBLIC NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City of Eau Claire's Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting at 3:30 p.m. on August 21, 2018 in the Chippewa Room at L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library, 400 Eau Claire Street, Eau Claire, WI 54701, has been cancelled for lack of business items.

For further information, please contact Associate Planner, Ned Noel at 715-839-4914.

This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of Subchapter V of Chapter 19 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

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**CITY OF EAU CLAIRE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2018**

MISSION:

"To assure the common good through services essential for a safe, sustainable, engaged and healthy community."

DATE: September 18, 2018 **TIME:** 3:30 p.m. **LOCATION:** L.E. Phillips Mem. Library, Chippewa Rm.

CHAIR: Brian Larson, Chair

RECORDER: Ned Noel, Associate Planner

Members Present: Kate Hartsel, Gina Keenan, Brian Larson, Anna Moehagen, Crispin Pierce, Jim Schumacher, Steve Terwilliger, Dody Wubker

Also in attendance: Patrick Ritchie, City Sustainability Intern; Tyrel Zich, Xcel Energy

AGENDA ITEM #1: Call to Order

Chair, Mr. Larson called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM #2: Approve July 17, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Pierce moved to approve the July minutes. Seconded by Mr. Schumacher and the motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM #3: Climate & Energy Action Planning Grant Update

Mr. Noel said it is anticipated that the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) will make their announcement in late September. The Renewable Energy Action Plan or REAP will be a comprehensive approach. It will cover both the municipality and community to meet the carbon neutral and 100% renewable energy goals by 2050.

Members discussed if the City does not receive the grant what are options to pursue. Other grants were mentioned and working with partners like Xcel Energy. They expressed it is hard to plan at this point without knowing from the PSC.

Mr. Noel stated some staff resources will be there to continue on but not as significant as envisioned with the grant opportunity. An electric vehicles suitability assessment will go forward regardless.

AGENDA ITEM #4: Electric Vehicle Planning

Mr. Noel stated he is working with the City's Streets and Fleet Manager to compile a list of fleet vehicles that would be good candidates to study under Xcel Energy's electric vehicles suitability assessment. The program reimburses non-profits. Telematics track vehicles and provide data to allow fleet managers to understand which vehicles could make the switch and have good paybacks.

Mr. Noel stated three City staff and two members of the committee attended a Wisconsin Clean Cities electric vehicles educational event. It was sponsored by Xcel Energy and held on September 13th. Staff promoted the event and helped the organizers since an EV event is listed in the committee's work plan. Besides a morning of great learning, attendees were able to test drive a variety of hybrid electric vehicles.

Mr. Terwilliger commented that plug-in hybrids are a good choice for consumers currently. They allow going fully electric in town while eliminating range anxiety on long distance trips. He visited Norway recently and said about 30% of all vehicles are currently electric. Most of them are found in large cities such as Oslo.

AGENDA ITEM #5: Native Landscaping

Mr. Noel stated the Historic Randall Park Neighborhood provided a soil analysis and the study did not find any unique circumstances. They would still like the committee's help to plan for future 2019 improvements. They are interested in low-maintenance type plants, shrubs and trees in the vacant space along 1st Avenue. They decided against wild flowers since it takes time to establish and some ongoing maintenance is required.

Ms. Hartsel stated she would be willing to form a small sub-committee to help the neighborhood. They would not design the site but could help make connections with experts and provide their own expertise.

Ms. Hartsel, Ms. Moehagen, Mr. Pierce, and Mr. Terwilliger will assist the neighborhood. Mr. Noel will make the contact so panning can move forward.

Concerning native lawns, Mr. Noel shared the current permit process. Mr. Ritchie presented new versions for the committee to react to.

The committee liked adding more clarification about boulevard plantings, placing the regulations on the back of the waiver application and links to resources. They recommended a webpage be developed that explained the process and why it matters. Also to link educational resources, the application, and provide definitions of native lawns.

Mr. Noel asked for photos from members to possibly put on materials and will speak with the City's Weed Commissioner to make changes.

AGENDA ITEM #6: Review Annual Work Plan

Mr. Noel highlighted the progress on each work plan task. On-demand micro transit will be studied now in the Transit Development Plan in 2019. A possible future grant from the State Smart Transportation Institute may also help study public perception on autonomous vehicles.

Mr. Ritchie explained the electric grid research he did comparing the EPA's Midwest eGrid data with Xcel Energy's own resource mix. Greenhouse gas reductions are significant if using Xcel's grid.

Mr. Noel stated The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy will allow the City to use a more local profile like Xcel's. At the next committee meeting, more information will be provided about joining this initiative.

Mr. Noel stated studying organic waste diversion will be looked into more in 2019 since there have been several staff changes at the Health Department. The concept can also be reviewed during the 2019 renewable energy action plan as a possible mitigation measure to reduce methane emissions.

Mr. Noel will reach out to the Health Department to see if they will be updating the waste management ordinance.

AGENDA ITEM #7: Brief Updates

• **Sustainability Awards**

The third annual recognition ceremony was held August 29th and was very successful recognizing local sustainability champions. More information can be found on the City’s webpage regarding the awards.

• **Annual Reports**

The 2017 annual sustainability report for the Green Tier Legacy Communities program is available on the City’s sustainability website. Members were encouraged to review it to see how various departments are carrying out the City’s mission statement to be a more sustainable community.

AGENDA ITEM #8: Future Agenda Items & Meeting Dates

Anna Moehagen will be stepping down since she moved out of the city limits. She was recognized for her service on the committee. Mr. Noel said staff will be looking for a replacement.

Mr. Pierce stated there will be an Eau Claire Grassroots Festival on Saturday, September 22nd from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the UW-Eau Claire’s Davies Center. Members were encouraged to attend. He also asked about the progress with tree preservation best management brochures.

Mr. Noel stated the public brochures should be ready after getting Forestry Division support.

AGENDA ITEM #9: Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES



Kate Hartsel, Secretary

FUTURE MEETING DATES:	TIME:	LOCATION:
• October 16, 2018	• 3:30 p.m.	• Library, Chippewa Rm.

**CITY OF EAU CLAIRE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Agenda
October 16, 2018**

MISSION:

"To assure the common good through services essential for a safe, sustainable, engaged and healthy community."

DATE: October 16, 2018 **TIME:** 3:30 p.m. **LOCATION:** L.E. Phillips Memorial Library, Chippewa Rm.

CHAIR: Brian Larson, Chair

RECORDER: Ned Noel, Associate Planner

Members Present: Brian Graff, Kate Hartsel, Brian Larson, Crispin Pierce, Jim Schumacher, Steve Terwilliger

Also in attendance: Patrick Ritchie, City Sustainability Intern; Helene Smiar, Historic Randall Park Neighborhood; Tyrel Zich, Xcel Energy

AGENDA ITEM #1: Call to Order

Chairman Larson called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM #2: Approve September 18, 2018 Meetings Minutes

Mr. Terwilliger moved to approve the September minutes per corrections noted by Mr. Peirce and Mr. Graff. Seconded by Mr. Schumacher and the motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM #3: MREA Solar Group Buy Discussion

The Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) is advertising a solar group buy competition. They will select a number of communities to run programs in 2019.

Members discussed if to apply. There was overall support but concern that the first local solar group buy needs to finish. The selected contractor for that program went out of business and some jobs remain. There was agreement to bring it to closure before starting another. MREA is aware of the problem and is willing to work with the city if selected. They have also developed new contract protections to reduce risk to participants.

Staff was directed to apply and work with MREA on appropriate timing, if selected.

AGENDA ITEM #4: Renewable Energy Action Planning (REAP) Process

The Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) awarded the City \$180,000 in planning funds. The official process for both the municipality and community to meet the 2050 100% renewable energy and carbon neutral goals will start in early 2019. A broad representation of the community will be invited to participate. The committee will be in a leadership role regarding the community side of REAP. The City will also be working closely with Xcel Energy in their Partners in Energy (PiE) program.

Tyrel Zich, Senior Rate Analyst with Xcel Energy, stated they recently submitted to the PSC a new Green Tariff program called Renewable*Connect. It blends newer wind and solar resources under a volunteer rate that is cheaper than their Windsource® rate. There will be options for month-to-month payments or a 5 year contract. The program will be a good resource to take advantage of for those in Eau Claire so they can work towards meet the City's goals.

The Natural Step system conditions were discussed in light of the goals. Adopted by City Council in 2009, the framework provides a scientific approach to achieving sustainability. It advocates for “back-casting” solutions from obtaining the 2050 goals rather than using “forecasting” methods on past trends. Members agreed to use the approach in the REAP process. It will help provide a common language and system to evaluate options.

Members agreed also that the REAP process presents a great opportunity for innovation and should be tied back to city economic development strategies. As an example, to develop ways to support more clean energy businesses and jobs.

AGENDA ITEM #5: Net Zero Development Discussion

The aforementioned PSC grant will fund a net zero energy and emission development guide. The purpose is to illustrate ways the development community and City can meet the 2050 sustainability goals in the built environment. The City will work with developers, builders and other stakeholders in 2019. Members agreed it might be better to pick up the process for the guide in mid-year since the REAP process will be starting earlier.

AGENDA ITEM #6: 2019 Annual Work Plan Discussion

Members reviewed items on the 2018 work plan. Several of the projects will be carried forward since the PSC grant is providing the resources to complete items like the REAP plan and the net-zero guide. The solar group buy was decided to be added to the 2019 work plan, but there was concern to focus energies and not add much more work.

AGENDA ITEM #7: Brief Updates

Mr. Ritchie stated the City and community carbon inventories and energy use profiles are almost complete for 2015, 2016 and 2017. The data will be useful heading into the REAP process.

Mr. Noel stated the City Council approved over a million dollars to fund renewable energy projects in the five year capital improvement plan (CIP). The CIP is contingent on final budget passage.

AGENDA ITEM #8: Native Landscaping Sub-Committee Work

A sub-committee of the whole continued to meet with Helene Smiar of the Historic Randall Park Neighborhood. Mr. Terwilliger provided some names of master gardeners who are willing to work with the neighborhood on a plan. Ms. Hartsel will provide some contacts as well.

AGENDA ITEM #9: Future Agenda Items & Meeting Dates

None.

AGENDA ITEM #10: Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES



Kate Hartsel, Secretary

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

• November 20, 2018

TIME:

• 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION:

• Library, Chippewa Rm.

**CITY OF EAU CLAIRE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2018**

MISSION:

"To assure the common good through services essential for a safe, sustainable, engaged and healthy community."

DATE: November 20, 2018 **TIME:** 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION: L.E. Phillips Memorial Library, Chippewa Rm.

CHAIR: Brian Larson, Chair

RECORDER: Ned Noel, Associate Planner

Members Present: Brian Graff, Gina Keenan, Crispin Pierce, Jim Schumacher, Steve Terwilliger, Dody Wubker, Tyrel Zich

Also in attendance: Patrick Ritchie, City Sustainability Intern; Jeremy Gragert, City Council; Aaron Brewster, WI Climate Table; Rachyl Houterman, UWEC.

AGENDA ITEM #1: Call to Order

Mr. Pierce called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM #2: Approve October 16, 2018 Meetings Minutes

Mr. Terwilliger moved to approve the October minutes. Seconded by Mr. Graff and the motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM #3: Draft 2019 Annual Work Plan Discussion

Members reviewed the draft work plan and tasks. It was decided to keep the same theme "Towards a Renewable City" as last year. Members acknowledged working on 100% renewable energy and carbon neutrality by 2050 is going to take time and changing the theme every year may not be best.

There was discussion on specific projects. Marketing property assessed clean energy (PACE) could help reduce Tax Increment Financing asks of the City. If selected by the MREA for a solar group buy, it might be better to wait until summer since carbon and renewable energy action planning (REAP) activities will need to begin in the 1st quarter of 2019. Members agreed to continue the exploration of reducing household compostables via collection, but it may be best to wait until the REAP process is concluded.

It was determined that on December 18th a public hearing will be held and then to take up a vote on the work plan. City Council approval will then be sought in January.

AGENDA ITEM #4: Clean Energy / Renewable Energy Discussion

In light of City Council passing goals of 100% renewable energy and carbon neutrality, members reviewed energy and carbon trends by the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Renewable energy accounts for only 8.9% of all U.S. consumption in 2017 and only 11.7% in Wisconsin for 2014. Xcel Energy provides 29% renewables to the city, but this does not account for transportation liquid fuels.

Mr. Zich shared that Xcel Energy plans to file next year a new 15 year Integrated Resource Plan for the Upper Midwest. It should have more renewables planned to meet customer demand and incorporate carbon-free reduction goals. Roughly 1,850 megawatts of wind should be online by 2022 and the company should have 46% renewables. By 2030 Xcel plans to be 85% carbon-free. He also stated renewable transportation fuels are becoming more competitive.

There was discussion over nuclear energy and that Xcel's nuclear plants' operating permits will start ending by 2030. Xcel's plans at this time do not include renewing these permits and investing into plant upgrades. It was noted the lifecycle carbon emissions to build nuclear plants are very high.

Mr. Gragert stated he has been working with Eau Claire County to pass similar 2050 legislation on carbon neutrality and 100% renewables. The issue is at County committee currently.

AGENDA ITEM #5: Renewable Energy Action Planning Next Steps / Communications

Members discussed ideas for public outreach using various communication strategies. Open houses may yield the usual suspects and might not be the most effective use of resources. Standard outlets for media stories and newspaper articles would be good to pursue. Volume One would be a good publication to follow the process and include features on "climate heroes" or "biggest carbon loser" taking action. Also, creating a pledge initiative might be a good way to bring focus and build collection action. Xcel Energy might have some resources for marketing and education under the Partners in Energy program.

Mr. Terwilliger stated UWEC professor Chris Theo's art and design students want to help create a multimedia communications campaign for REAP. Engaging the high schools like Memorial High and their eco-warrior program would be good. He also emailed a list of ideas to staff.

Mr. Schumacher noted entertaining elements help to attract interest. A theatrical performance at Pablo Center or some form of storytelling would be a unique approach and might get more people interested. He thought we should go to where people go. Having a table at these events or places could work well.

Mr. Graff stated image recognition apps as what 19 Crimes Wine bottles have would be a very interesting way to engage people.

Mr. Brewster shared of the book *Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change* by Elizabeth Kolbert, which would provide a good example of weaving science and emotion together in storytelling.

Members said to connect with the Chamber of Commerce to include businesses and present information via their Green Business Program. Businesses could also be contacted to find out what they did to take action.

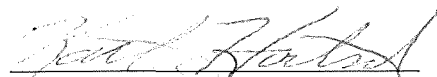
AGENDA ITEM #6: Future Agenda Items & Meeting Dates

None.

AGENDA ITEM #7: Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES



Kate Hartsel, Secretary

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

• December 18, 2018

TIME:

• 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION:

• Library, Chippewa Rm.

**CITY OF EAU CLAIRE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Agenda
December 18, 2018**

MISSION:

"To assure the common good through services essential for a safe, sustainable, engaged and healthy community."

DATE: December 18, 2018 **TIME:** 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION: L.E. Phillips Memorial Library, Chippewa Rm.

CHAIR: Brian Larson, Chair

RECORDER: Ned Noel, Associate Planner

Members Present: Brian Graff, Kate Hartsel, Gina Keenan, Crispin Pierce, Jim Schumacher, Steve Terwilliger, Dody Wubker, Tyrel Zich

Also in attendance: Brian Elwood and Julie Thoney with Xcel Energy NSP-WI; Jeremy Gragert, City Council; James Dunning, Eau Claire County Board; Patrick Ritchie, City Sustainability Intern; Josh Clements, City of Altoona; Aaron Clements, Memorial High School; Eric Pratrow, UWEC; Aaron Brewster, WI Climate Table.

AGENDA ITEM #1: Call to Order

Vice Chair Mr. Pierce called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM #2: Approve November 20, 2018 Meetings Minutes

Mr. Graff moved to approve the November minutes. Seconded by Mr. Schumacher and the motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM #3: Public Hearing - 2019 Annual Work Plan Approval

Mr. Noel stated no changes of substance were made from the November meeting. Direction received back then was incorporated into the draft for consideration. He also stated the City was selected for a 2019 solar group-buy. The Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) will lead the group-buy and would like to form a local selection committee. Ms. Hartsel, Mr. Schumacher and Mr. Terwilliger all expressed interest in serving. MREA will hire the contractor early in the year so group purchasing is complete by end of August. Thereafter, installations would occur locally.

Mr. Pierce opened the public hearing and no one came forward to speak.

Mr. Terwilliger moved to approve the work plan. Seconded by Mr. Graff and the motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM #4: Xcel Energy Background

Brian Elwood, General Manager, Customer & Community Service of Xcel Energy (NSP-WI) presented information on company background. Julie Thoney, Manager of Community Service & Economic Development was also on hand to answer questions. Corporately, Xcel Energy serves eight states with 3.6 million electricity customers and 2 million natural gas customers. The utility is nationally recognized in wind energy, energy efficiency, carbon emissions reductions, innovative technology, storm restoration efforts and Veteran hiring. Xcel also has been active in creating pollinator habitats on owned properties such as under powerlines. Xcel is the number one renewable energy provider in Wisconsin. They have 213 communities in their WI service territory with 250,000 electric and 109,000 natural gas customers. Before the redevelopment of Phoenix Park, NSP-WI headquarters was in downtown Eau Claire. In 2000 it was moved to Sky Park Industrial Business Park. There are 700 employees and contractors in the area.

Xcel is active in economic development initiatives with the City as well such as with the Gateway Industrial Park Corporation.

Mr. Elwood stated Xcel's Energy priorities are to lead the clean energy transition, enhance the customer experience, and keep bills low. Residential electric bills are less than the national average and are cheaper today than they were in 2013. Xcel recently made an important announcement to become carbon-free by 2050. This is the first by an investor owned utility. Emissions have already been reduced by 35% from 2005. This exceeds the 2025 Paris Agreement target and is on mid-century course to limit warming below 2 degrees Celsius. By 2030, Xcel should be 80% carbon-free energy with current technology, but the last 20% will be more difficult. Future R&D, technological advances and cost declines should make those decisions more clear. Ideas are to develop carbon-free 24/7 resources, flexible demand, and long-duration storage. A new voluntary program called Renewable*Connect should also be available soon where customers can subscribe to additional wind and solar power.

Mr. Elwood stated Xcel is eager to work with the City and Sustainability Advisory Committee under their Partners in Energy (PiE) program. He noted how successful it has been working with the City on the Solar*Connect Community solar garden at Sky Park landfill and helping the City to assess electric vehicles for the fleet. The PiE program has been successful in Minnesota and Colorado communities that have similar clean energy goals. Xcel will also contribute to an energy intern to help with the efforts.

Mr. Pierce asked if Xcel factors in human health and environment costs into their cost of generation. Mr. Elwood and Mr. Zich stated Xcel factors these costs during their Integrated Resource Planning.

Committee members expressed appreciation for Xcel's leadership in the community and were excited to work together in the upcoming planning partnership.

AGENDA ITEM #5: Renewable Energy Action Planning (REAP) Next Steps / Communications

Mr. Noel stated the PSC informed staff that they are still awaiting authorization from the Department of Energy to begin projects under their Energy Innovation Grant Program (EIGP). Once green-lighted, first steps will be to engage with Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy to firm up the process. Public stakeholders will then be invited to serve on a steering committee. The first REAP meeting could be in early March.

Staff intern, Patrick Ritchie, shared a flyer example concerning the 2015-2017 carbon footprints for the community. He noted that using Xcel's generation mix rather than using the EPA's eGrid Midwest Reliability Organization West, reduced carbon emissions significantly.

AGENDA ITEM #6: Future Agenda Items & Meeting Dates

None.

AGENDA ITEM #7: Adjournment

Ms. Keenan moved adjourn at 4:56 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Hartsel and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES


Kate Hartsel, Secretary

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

• January 15, 2019

TIME:

• 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION:

• Library, Chippewa Rm.