PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City of Eau Claire's Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting at 3:30 p.m. on January 15, 2019 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.

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.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City of Eau Claire's Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting at 3:30 p.m. on February 19, 2019 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.

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# Meeting Minutes March 19, 2019

#### MISSION:

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

**DATE:** March 19, 2019 **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, Tyrel Zich

Also in attendance: Patrick Ritchie, City Sustainability Intern; David Hon, DNR; Jeannie Voeks, Green

Planet Rain Barrels

#### AGENDA ITEM #1: Call to Order

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

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

Mr. Terwilliger moved to approve the December 18, 2018 meeting minutes. Seconded by Mr. Pierce and the motion carried.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #3: Elections**

Mr. Graff moved to nominate current Chair Larson and Vice Chair Pierce for new one year terms. Ms. Hartsel seconded the motion, and added that Mr. Graff be nominated for Secretary. He accepted the friendly amendment and the motion carried.

#### AGENDA ITEM #4: Recruitment

Ms. Hartsel was congratulated for the work she has helped with on the Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC). She expressed appreciation while serving. Ms. Keenan was not present but was also commended for her service. Both members have served their full term limits.

Members provided additional names for consideration to fill the terms by Ms. Keenan and Ms. Hartsel.

#### AGENDA ITEM #5: Annual Sustainability Awards

After discussion about timing, members agreed to hold the awards ceremony on June 5, 2019, World Environment Day. They directed that a press release go out in early April and applications should be received before the committee's May meeting. The schedule will give time for the awards to be manufactured. They also wanted to change the plaque design to use the committee's logo. Members were encouraged to spread the word once the application round is open.

## AGENDA ITEM #6: Renewable Energy Action Planning

Mr. Noel stated on February 18th the State Public Service Commission gave permission for the planning project to begin. The project is a few months behind but should still be completed by the end of the year. Staff has been working with Xcel Energy and their Partners in Energy consultant, Center for Energy and Environment. A work contract has been agreed to by all parties. The first workshop meeting will be

organizational and educational in focus. Members expressed interest in having a vision statement worked on and having a pre-workshop survey to better understand steering committee members' backgrounds.

The second workshop will dive into possible strategies within various focus groups. The third workshop will prioritize and begin to model strategies, related to the various decade carbon drawdowns and 100% renewable energy goals. The fourth workshop will have draft plan presented to make refinements before heading into the approval stage. SAC will need to vote on the REAP plan before City Council considers the plan.

With SAC's previous input and direction, the REAP steering committee is almost formed. There has been tremendous interest so that the total number had to be capped around 50 people. Other interested individuals could still serve on the future Net-Zero Energy Building Guide Task Force.

The role of SAC will be to offer input acting on the steering committee, but also provide assistance in small table discussions and education to attendees on context and energy issues (e.g., how utilities cannot subsidize new specialized programs via all ratepayers).

The first two community workshops will be on April 11th and May 9th. Both are from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at CVTC's Energy Education Center.

# AGENDA ITEM #7: Net Zero Energy (NZE) Building Guide Discussion

Mr. Noel stated Pale Blue Dot has been recently selected to carry out this sub-planning project under the REAP plan. Staff has also made an important connection with the Rocky Mt. Institute who has conducted marketplace research on NZE buildings.

The process will include a small task force of builders, designers, etc. to provide input. SAC will also have a chance to review and provide input. A survey will seek to identify barriers and opportunities. The guide will offer a menu of strategies for new/existing residential and commercial buildings. Once complete, the consultant will provide training with continuing education credit.

While not mandatory in nature, the NZE guide is meant to transform the development review process and buildings in alignment with the 2050 sustainability goals. Therefore, the Plan Commission will need to review it and approve as well as the City Council.

SAC members shared the guide should try to include passive house design, carbon sequestration opportunities with landscaping and composting, potential toxicity issues, possible grey water reuse, permeable surfaces, and financing options available like property assesse clean energy (PACE).

#### AGENDA ITEM #8: Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan Discussion

Mr. Noel stated this sub-plan under REAP will also be developed with the assistance of Xcel and their consultants. A City staff team will be assembled to work with these technical experts on developing the roadmap. It will focus on education, EV market forecasts, community goals, sectors (e.g., public and residential charging), best practices, policies, City fleet conversions, development standards and infrastructure. There will be a tie-back with transportation representatives on the REAP steering committee to provide input. Santa Monica's and Atlanta's EV plans were provided as examples.

Mr. Zich stated Xcel Energy has been offering pilot EV options in Minnesota. The EV Pricing Plan allows customers to charge at night and on the weekends for a reduced electricity price. Charging during the

day is also allowed but at about double the price. There is a \$4.95 monthly service charge for the second meter to track when and how much is being used. A Time-of-Day option allows reduce pricing again on nights and weekends during off-peak periods (9 p.m. to 9 a.m.) to shift energy demand away from the more expensive on-peak period (9 a.m. to 9 p.m.). A Time-of-Day meter replaces the existing meter to record the time and amount of electricity used.

SAC members were supportive of moving forward with the EV plan.

## AGENDA ITEM #9: Solar Group Buy Update

Mr. Noel stated MREA, staff, and the selection committee (includes SAC members Hartsel, Schumacher, and Terwilliger) continue to work on customer protections in the RFP. Next steps are to issue the RFP, select the contractor and begin educational solar power hours. Group purchasing should wrap up by the end of August, with installs to begin thereafter. The program should wrap up by the end of the year so that customers can take advantage of the 30% investor tax credit.

## **AGENDA ITEM #10: Brief Updates**

## Lieutenant Governor Meeting

Mr. Noel noted on February 18th, Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes met with staff and Chair Larson to learn about the City's 2050 goals and sustainability experience. Governor Tony Evers pledged recently to uphold the Paris Agreement by joining the U.S. Climate Alliance. He outlined similar carbon and renewable goals to Eau Claire's in his budget. He said SAC should be proud that State leadership sought out the committee's advice and work.

#### • Upcoming Energy Events

A number of energy related events were shared. Eau Claire Energy Cooperative and CVTC are holding an electric vehicle promotion event at the Energy Education Center on Saturday, April 27th. The announcement will be forwarded when available.

Xcel Energy is holding an Energy Efficiency Summit on Tuesday, May 14th.

Mr. Terwilliger stated he will be providing a session (or two) at MREA's annual Energy Fair on June 21-23 in Custer, WI. He will provide an update to SAC.

## AGENDA ITEM #11: Future Agenda Items & Meeting Dates

None.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #12: Adjournment**

Mr. Larson moved to adjourn at 5:05 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Schumacher and the motion carried.

# APPROVAL OF MINUTES

FUTURE MEETING DATES:	TIME:	LOCATION:
• April 16, 2019	• 3:30 p.m.	• Library, Chippewa Rm.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City of Eau Claire's Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting at 3:30 p.m. on April 16, 2019 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.

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# Meeting Minutes May 21, 2019

#### MISSION:

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

**DATE:** May 21, 2019 **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, David Hon, Brian Larson, Crispin Pierce, Sarah Rykal, Jim

Schumacher, Steve Terwilliger, Dody Wubker, Tyrel Zich

**Also in attendance:** Patrick Ritchie, City Sustainability Intern; Aaron Brewster, WI Climate Table

#### AGENDA ITEM #1: Call to Order

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

## **AGENDA ITEM #2: Approve March Meetings Minutes**

Mr. Schumacher moved to approve the March 19, 2019 meeting minutes. Seconded by Mr. Terwilliger and the motion carried.

## AGENDA ITEM #3: Approve Annual Sustainability Awards

The committee reviewed applications of the nominees. They decided that late submittals would be acceptable only if members themselves submit applications.

It was approved by Mr. Graff's motion and seconded by Mr. Hon, that following list would win awards for 2019. (Mr. Pierce abstained from voting on the UWEC Watershed item and Ms. Wubker abstained from voting on the Eau Claire Energy Cooperative item.)

Energy: Renewables, Efficiency or Conservation - Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Environmental Education - UW-Eau Claire Watershed Institute

Sustainable Development - Benny Haas

Sustainable City Staff -Matt Staudenmaier

Exceptional Natural Resources Steward - The Pablo Center

Student Leadership - Austin Northagen

Exceptional Natural Resources Steward - Eco Urban Timber

Environmental Education - Eau Claire Citizens' Climate Lobby

Exceptional Natural Resources Steward -Tree Purpose of Eau Claire

Green Products or Practices -Eau Claire Downtown Farmers Market

The awards ceremony will be held on June 5, 2019, World Environment Day. Both Chair Larson and Vice Chair Pierce volunteered to help issue the awards.

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

Members debriefed from the first meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup> and talked about next steps for the second meeting.

Generally, the first meeting went well and there was a great turnout from the REAP steering committee. However, speakers could have been heard better and mics were suggested to use going forward. Small group facilitation was a little hard to do as well with so many people in the room.

Suggestions for the second meeting on June 6<sup>th</sup> included having people wear name tags, allowing people to have multiple chances to cover different focus areas, and to invite groups like the Hmong Association.

Cautioned was also expressed about modeling specific things after 2030 where certainty is less predictable today. It was agreed however that the 2050 goals of carbon neutrality and 100% renewable energy need to be modeled to show how they might be met. Members acknowledged that in actuality, the plan will need to be revised in time to adjust for new realities and technological advancements.

# AGENDA ITEM #5: Net Zero Energy Guide Discussion

This item was not discussed due to time constraints.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #6: Tree Planting & Preservation Brochures**

Members reviewed two draft tree brochures to educate the development community on proper tree planting and preservation in urban environments. Generally, they were well received but a few members had suggestions to add more benefits of trees into the introduction.

Mr. Noel stated he will try to add more if there is room. It was also suggested to add local contact resources such as Eau Claire Master Gardeners and UW-Extension.

# AGENDA ITEM #7: Compostable Waste Diversion Discussion

Mr. Noel stated the County Recycling Coordinator intends to meet with the committee next month to provide more background on the issue and also explain how the Chinese national policy on restricting plastic recycling is changing the industry in the U.S.

Members mentioned it would be good to find a way to incentivize the composting practice more. For example, citizens could receive finished compost if they participated.

# **AGENDA ITEM #8: Brief Updates**

# • Solar Group Buy Update

Mr. Noel stated MREA is in discussions with a possible contractor to implement the local program. If the deal is agreed to, the program would start soon and go till the end of the year.

#### AGENDA ITEM #9: Future Agenda Items & Meeting Dates

None.

#### AGENDA ITEM #10: Adjournment

Chair Larson adjourned the committee at 5:04 p.m.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Brian Graff, Secretary

FUTURE MEETING DATES:TIME:LOCATION:• June 18, 2019• 3:30 p.m.• Library, Chippewa Rm.

# Meeting Minutes June 18, 2019

#### MISSION:

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

**DATE:** June 18, 2019 **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, Crispin Pierce, Sarah Rykal, Jim Schumacher, Steve Terwilliger, Dody

Wubker, Tyrel Zich

**Also in attendance:** Patrick Ritchie, City Sustainability Intern; Meghan Burkett, Eau Claire County Recycling Coordinator; Orion Allgaier, Eau Claire County Planning Intern; Aaron Brewster, WI Climate

Table

## AGENDA ITEM #1: Call to Order

Vice Chair Pierce called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

## **AGENDA ITEM #2: Approve May Meetings Minutes**

Mr. Graff moved to approve the May 21, 2019 meeting minutes. Seconded by Mr. Zich and the motion carried.

# AGENDA ITEM #3: Recycling, Composting and Waste Discussion

Meghan Burkett, Eau Claire County Recycling Coordinator shared how the Chinese national policy on U.S. plastics has affected the recycling business. After about a year, local haulers are finding cost increases at Twin Cities' material recover facilities (MRFs) more challenging. These costs will ultimately get passed onto consumers. The MRFs are finding it harder to find buyers to ship and or remanufacture the material. Thus, more plastics are being stored or landfilled. Specifically, #3s-5s and #7s are not finding end-markets though they are required to be recycled locally. Only #1s and #2s are finding end-markets. Some plastic film at retail drop-off locations is still recovered but needs to be clean and dry. Ms. Burkett stated she has met with the five area haulers to discuss the increased tipping fees and to try to find solutions. Nothing has been decided amidst the global situation, but the issue is force new ways of thinking about the industry.

Members agreed that though the situation is daunting people need to remember to reduce first, then reuse before turning to recycling. There also is a disconnect between generating waste and recycling with where the materials actually go. Education was seen by all as the best solution to change mind-sets. Ms. Burkett said that is her target using platforms like social media. She was willing to work with the committee on additional ideas such as local videos.

The committee discussed composting opportunities and challenges since recovering more of this waste stream is in their work plan. Ms. Burkett two haulers have licensed compost operations in the county. Earthbound is recovering residential and some commercial whereas Advanced Disposal is recovering more institutional. Members discussed helping people compost more at home and possible incentivizing the practice city-wide. It was also mentioned that it would be good if the City would not allow the burning of leaves.

# AGENDA ITEM #4: Renewable Energy Action Planning Debrief/Next Steps

Members debriefed from the second workshop held on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Overall, they felt like it was a good meeting though getting through all the possible strategies felt rushed and a bit overwhelming. There was also a sense that more expert background was needed to help determine what strategies should go into the plan. Some members felt the process to narrow down the strategies was a little arbitrary.

Mr. Brewster suggested potentially having subcommittees reacting to lists of strategies supplied with ample background to determine which ones should advance.

Mr. Zich stated to study each individual strategy in depth would take too much time. It may also be better to look at near-term solutions rather than long term items since the plan will most likely be revised in the future.

Mr. Noel cautioned plans like this do not get into project level work. Once the plan is approved implementation begins and chosen projects are then evaluated for action. As an example, he explained the strategy rankings from the waste focus area and that whatever advances into the plan will be studied after. He further noted that the Electric Vehicles Readiness Plan and Net Zero Energy Building Guide would normally be projects out of a plan like this, but thanks to the Public Service Commission grant, the City can pursue these projects right away. He will share the input received from members with the Partners in Energy project team to design the next public workshop.

#### AGENDA ITEM #5: Net Zero Energy Guide Discussion

Committee members agreed that the plan will help transform buildings and development. They agreed to recognize projects by some sort of rating system. Using established industry standards like Residential Energy Services Network's Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Index could be one way. Their vision is to create a net zero energy residential sector in the United States by 2040.

The committee also thought it would be good to partner with the Chippewa Valley Technical College's residential building program to design a prototype and curriculum around the net-zero concept. It was viewed important also to partner with the Chippewa Valley Home Builders Association to promote it and possibly to have a tour of a future net-zero energy house during Parade of Homes.

Mr. Noel stated the consultant has begun work on an awareness survey and will share a draft before it is sent out to industry experts and the public. The first community input meeting will be held sometime in mid to late July. The project should wrap up by year-end.

#### AGENDA ITEM #6: Solar Group Buy Discussion

Mr. Noel stated two solar contractors were selected that proposed a joint bid. The local installer is Next Step Energy and the other is Eagle Point Solar out of Dubuque, IA. Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) staffing for the educational "solar power hours" is yet to be determined. He asked members if they knew of anyone locally to help, as MREA will pay the individual. The educational sessions should begin in July and wrap up in September. Locations and times are yet to be decided.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #7: Brief Updates**

Mr. Schumacher stated he attended the Citizens' Climate Lobby Washing D.C. lobbying effort recently. They are working to have Congress passed a revenue neutral carbon fee and dividend bill. Carbon polluters will be assessed a fee and held in a Federal trust fund. Citizens would then get a credit from the government to offset any addition cost from the polluters. The proposed bill would reduce carbon emission an estimate 40% in 12 years and 90% by 2050. It already enjoys strong bi-partisan support after

more than a decade of lobbying.

Mr. Terwilliger handed out MREA Energy Fair flyers for the event on June 21st -23rd. Xcel Energy is sponsoring a free bus ride to the site in Custer, WI. He will also be presenting on energy topics.

# AGENDA ITEM #9: Future Agenda Items & Meeting Dates

Mr. Noel stated the July 16<sup>th</sup> meeting will most likely be cancelled since the Renewable Energy Action Plan workshop is on July 18<sup>th</sup>.

# AGENDA ITEM #10: Adjournment

Chair Larson adjourned the committee at 5:00 p.m.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

FUTURE MEETING DATES:	TIME:	LOCATION:
• July 16, 2019	• 3:30 p.m.	• Library, Chippewa Rm.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City of Eau Claire's Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting at 3:30 p.m. on July 16, 2019 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.

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# Meeting Minutes August 20, 2019

#### MISSION:

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

**DATE:** August 20, 2019 **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, Brian Larson, Crispin Pierce, Sarah Rykal, Jim Schumacher, Steve

Terwilliger, Dody Wubker

Also in attendance: Patrick Ritchie, City Sustainability Intern

#### AGENDA ITEM #1: Call to Order

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

# AGENDA ITEM #2: Approve June 18, 2019 Meetings Minutes

Mr. Terwilliger moved to approve the June 18, 2019 meeting minutes. Seconded by Mr. Schumacher and the motion carried.

# AGENDA ITEM #3: Solar Group Buy Update

Mr. Noel stated the Solarize Eau Claire program recently launched with four solar power hours being held. WQOW and Leader Telegram ran stories. The City and its partners have been promoting the events on social media. MREA is planning to schedule more solar power hours at other sites. Deadline to sign up for a solar installation is October 31st. Special thanks to members Schumacher and Terwilliger for their help on this program.

## AGENDA ITEM #4: Net Zero Energy (NZE) Guide Discussion

Mr. Noel stated on July 22<sup>nd</sup> the City held a community input meeting and over 40 people attended. Two things heard repeatedly were cost concerns and marketplace inexperience. The consultant will be drafting a section of the guide based on this feedback and the community survey that went.

The committee shared ideas on how to make the guide effective. They ranged from mortgage discounts, because there is ongoing monthly energy bill savings, to solar loans and education to use the guide.

#### AGENDA ITEM #5: Electric Vehicle (EV) Plan Kickoff

Mr. Noel stated City staff held a kickoff call on August 14th with consultant Brendle Group and Xcel Energy on this sub-plan to the Renewable Energy Action Plan (REAP). The scope will cover many areas such as municipal fleet, policies, and EV infrastructure.

The committee shared ideas on how to make the plan effective. They ranged from education on how to install 240Volt line extensions in homes to a central charging hub for municipal fleet.

## AGENDA ITEM #6: Renewable Energy Action Planning Strategies

Mr. Noel stated an "ask" was sent out to the REAP steering committee on August 15th to get more feedback on proposed 2030 strategies. Staff and the project team consultants added more tactics and considerations that were feasible with stronger possible impacts. The guiding principles and community asset considerations were also applied. The various strategies and tactics that were developed at the last workshop were reviewed by the committee.

The committee had interests in strategies pertaining to solar plus storage, electric heating with solar, stakeholder outreach and education (such as provide information at the DMV on EVs), and seeking more clean energy manufacturing jobs. They also thought it would be good to break down the commercial and industrial classes to pinpoint opportunities in each since there is a wide variety of customers.

# AGENDA ITEM #7: Brief Updates

None.

# AGENDA ITEM #8: Future Agenda Items & Meeting Dates

Mr. Noel stated the committee's September 17<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup> meetings will most likely be cancelled since the Renewable Energy Action Plan workshops will be occurring close to those dates.

## AGENDA ITEM #9: Adjournment

Chair Larson adjourned the committee at 4:56 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

FUTURE MEETING DATES:	TIME:	LOCATION:
• TBD	• TBD	• TBD

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City of Eau Claire's Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting at 3:30 p.m. on September 17, 2019 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.

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PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City of Eau Claire's Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting at 3:30 p.m. on October 15, 2019 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.

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# Meeting Minutes November 19, 2019

#### MISSION:

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

DATE: November 19, 2019 TIME: 3:30 p.m. LOCATION: North Conference Room, City Hall CHAIR: Brian Larson, Chair RECORDER: Ned Noel, Associate Planner

**Members Present:** Brian Graff, Brian Larson, Sarah Rykal, Jim Schumacher, Steve Terwilliger, Dody

Wubker, Tyrel Zich

**Also in attendance:** Patrick Ritchie, City Sustainability Intern

AGENDA ITEM #1: Call to Order

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

# AGENDA ITEM #2: Approve August 20, 2019 Meetings Minutes

Mr. Schumacher moved to approve the August 20, 2019 meeting minutes. Seconded by Ms. Rykal and the motion carried.

# AGENDA ITEM #3: Solar Group Buy Update

Mr. Noel stated only 10.6 kW has been contracted but 99 kW is still being worked out between various customers. He said the program got off to a late start with MREA not having enough staff on board. The solar power hours were on average well attended. Overall, public awareness of solar improved.

#### AGENDA ITEM #4: 2019 Work Plan Progress & 2020 Development

Mr. Zich provided an update on Xcel Energy's electric vehicle (EV) rate filings. The first proposed rate will encourage homeowners to charge over night on lower cost electricity. Xcel will offer the option to pre-pay or on-bill finance their Level 2 chargers. These units will have a sub-meter built-in to differentiate electric use from the main meter. The other proposal is a commercial fleet rate. This incentivizes fleets to go electric by offsetting some of the line infrastructure costs based on the new electrical load.

Mr. Noel reviewed the progress on the current work plan and presented a rough sketch of a potential 2020 work plan. The draft was largely informed by the proposed strategies in the Renewable Energy Action Planning (REAP). Several implementation strategies around energy efficiency, renewable energy and electric vehicles could be bundled into a future campaign.

The committee agreed that a campaign would make sense to help the community work towards the City's 2050 goals of carbon neutrality and 100% renewable energy. Suggestions were provided on campaign slogans such as pursue a "low/no carbON diet", and how to reach young and old population segments. Other work plan ideas were offered to continue yearly solar group buys and to review major building projects for how they are addressing the goals.

## AGENDA ITEM #5: Renewable Energy Action Planning (REAP) Review Discussion

Mr. Noel stated the REAP plan draft went out to the steering committee on November 12<sup>th</sup>. The next REAP workshop will be November 21<sup>st</sup> to seek final input.

Mr. Ritchie demonstrated 2030 carbon emission reduction modeling based on historic data and assumed growth. Xcel's grid decarbonization will greatly benefit buildings and transportation using electricity. Natural gas heating and use in industry will be more of a challenge. However, with the decarbonization and other strategies proposed in the REAP plan (1% to 3% energy efficiencies, 10% vehicle miles traveled (VMTs) using electricity and 2 people on average commuting), the interim goal of 30% carbon reduction by 2030 can be achieved.

Mr. Noel went over the proposed work plan inside the draft REAP plan. "High", "medium", and "low" designations in the work plan give some indication on what are priorities. However, not all "high" priorities will be feasible within 2 years.

Committee members were generally in favor of keeping with the proposed work plan and to see how the REAP steering committee will react.

# AGENDA ITEM #6: Progress on other REAP sub-plans (Electric Vehicle Roadmap and Net Zero Energy Guide)

Mr. Noel stated the EV Roadmap plan is progressing. A second City and Xcel Energy staff workshop was held on November 19th to detail the plan around three focus areas. Recommended REAP plan strategies were folded in such as increasing EV chargers and working with dealers to increase sales of EVs. As for the municipal fleet, City staff determined 15% could be replaced with EVs or plug-in hybrids by 2030. Focus Area 1 or "Modeling the Way" details strategies on how the municipal operations will lead the way with adding fleet EVs and appropriate charging. Focus Area 2 or "Building a Strong Foundation" details strategies on supporting public EV charging, signage and enforcement. Focus Area 3 or "Sowing the Seeds for Transition" details strategies on partnerships, advocacy, residential and business charging. The last two focus areas will work towards reaching the 10% VMT reduction for the community. The numbers indicate that 8,000 EVs will be needed by 2030 to reach this goal.

Mr. Noel stated the Net Zero Energy Building guide is still being drafted. The REAP plan indicates a goal of 30 NZE new houses by 2030. This means roughly 3 houses per year, based on annual housing construction for single family houses. The NZE guide will assist in how to make that goal happen.

## **AGENDA ITEM #7: Brief Updates**

Mr. Terwilliger stated the Eau Claire Area School District Board will be considering two 100 kW solar arrays at both high schools on December  $2^{\text{nd}}$ . If the proposals pass there will be a fundraising campaign to cover the installation costs of the donated solar panels.

AGENDA ITEM #8:	Future Agenda Items & Meeting Dates
None.	

#### **AGENDA ITEM #9: Adjournment**

Chair Larson adjourned the committee at 4:55 p.m.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

FUTURE MEETING DATES:	TIME:	LOCATION:
• December 17, 2019	• 3:30 p.m.	• City Hall, North Conf. Rm.

# Meeting Agenda December 17, 2019

#### MISSION:

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

DATE: December 17, 2019 TIME: 3:30 p.m. LOCATION: North Conference Room, City Hall CHAIR: Brian Larson, Chair RECORDER: Ned Noel, Associate Planner

**Members Present:** Brian Graff, Brian Larson, Crispin Pierce, Sarah Rykal, Jim Schumacher, Steve

Terwilliger, Dody Wubker, Tyrel Zich

Also in attendance: Patrick Ritchie, City Sustainability Intern; Eric Crawford and Timur Shevket, RWE

Renewables Americas; Jen Monroe, JONAH; and Gary Pesicka

#### AGENDA ITEM #1: Call to Order

Chair Larson called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

#### AGENDA ITEM #2: Approve November 19, 2019 Meetings Minutes

Mr. Schumacher moved to approve the November 19, 2019 meeting minutes. Seconded by Mr. Terwilliger and the motion carried.

## AGENDA ITEM #3: KidWind Program Coach Request

Eric Crawford and Timur Shevket, with RWE Renewables Americas, LLC, briefly spoke on their wind farm proposal in southeastern Eau Claire County. They are looking to become a part of the community, investing not only in the wind project, but in creating jobs and supporting local communities.

They both addressed SAC about an educational program they support called KidWind. Middle to high school students build model wind turbines and test them for efficiency. RWE has reached out to area school districts for support and for volunteers to coach teams of students in the state competition. The final is in early March. A few members expressed interest. There was also concern that the timing was tight to get things organized.

#### AGENDA ITEM #4: JONAH Environmental Task Force Update

Jen Monroe with Joining Our Neighbors Advancing Hope (JONAH) spoke in support of a recycling and waste reduction campaign that their environment task force is planning for 2020. They are aiming to hold community forums with the first during Earth Week at the Brewing Projekt. They also have some ideas for a "Go Bagless" campaign. She said there may be ways to collaborate with SAC going forward.

Members shared resources and agreed to stay in contact for possible mutual opportunities.

#### AGENDA ITEM #5: Electric Vehicle (EV) Roadmap Discussion

Mr. Noel shared the draft of the EV Roadmap. Input and strategies from the REAP steering committee have been folded inside. For example, the community transportation greenhouse gas emission 2030 goal of 10% reduction. The Roadmap provides specific detail and action steps toward electrifying more of the city's transportation sector. Municipal fleet actions are also included with a goal of 15% EVs by 2030.

Members shared support for the plan and some will provide additional comment later.

## AGENDA ITEM #6: Renewable Energy Action Plan (REAP) Implementation Discussion

Mr. Noel shared progress on the REAP updates from the last steering committee workshop. He said staff anticipates the final draft to be reviewed at SAC's January 21st meeting and then to hold a public hearing on February 18th to approve the plan. The plan will also need Plan Commission and City Council approvals. The Net Zero Energy Guide is taking longer than anticipated and so staff expect that to be ready for SAC's January 21st meeting. He spoke about the need to implement the plan as part of a community campaign. He asked for ideas from the committee.

Ms. Rykal shared some marketing resources and said the City may need some professional guidance to help devise a communications campaign. She will provide a university contact.

Others shared ideas such as using swag gear, pop-up outreach at events, creative performances, and leveraging partners such as Focus on Energy and utilities. Sponsorships could be obtained by likeminded businesses or organizations. Grants should be applied for if they come up as well.

## AGENDA ITEM #7: 2019 Work Plan Progress & 2020 Development

The committee reviewed the draft mock-up of the 2020 work plan again and agreed that the proposed projects lend themselves well to a campaign. Several implementation strategies around energy efficiency, renewable energy and electric vehicles could be bundled into the future campaign.

Mr. Terwilliger cited the need for education. For example, ice dams on roof eaves currently are a big problem and people need to understand how to make corrections.

It was agreed since so many 2020 projects are REAP related, to wait until the plan is approved at City Council before bringing forth the work plan.

## **AGENDA ITEM #8: Brief Updates**

Mr. Terwilliger stated the Eau Claire Area School District Board approved two 100 kW solar arrays at both high schools and a fundraising campaign to cover the installation costs of the donated solar panels was recently launched.

# AGENDA ITEM #9: Future Agenda Items & Meeting Dates

None.

#### AGENDA ITEM #10: Adjournment

Chair Larson adjourned the committee at 5:01 p.m.

# **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

FUTURE MEETING DATES:	TIME:	LOCATION:
• January 21, 2020	• 3:30 p.m.	• City Hall, North Conf. Rm.