



MISSION:

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

DATE: October 19, 2022

TIME: 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION: City Hall, North Conf. Rm.

CHAIR: Doug Faulkner

RECORDER: Ned Noel, Senior Planner

Members Present: Cameron Bump, Doug Faulkner, Brian Graff, Amy Kalmon, Jael Martinez-Wolf, Monica Obrycki, Gary Pesicka, Jim Schumacher

Others in attendance: Kathy Campbell, Eleanor Wolf, other public

AGENDA ITEM #1: Call to Order

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

AGENDA ITEM #2: Roll Call

Chair Faulkner called roll and the required member count was present for a quorum.

AGENDA ITEM #3: Approval of September 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Obrycki moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Mr. Pesicka and the motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM #4: Open Public Comment Period for Items that do not appear on the Agenda

Eleanor Wolf had concerns about tree lost in the city and recommended to apply for U.S. Forestry grants to assist.

Kathy Campbell had concerns that the Seven Mile Creek Landfill keeps expanding and will be at capacity again by 2030. Recent local government agreements with the landfill owner do not go far enough to divert compostables and other waste that could reduce demand. She recommended adding the issue to the work plan.

AGENDA ITEM: Urban Agriculture Research Presentation (Chair moved item up from #6B)

Erin Garvey, a recent UWEC graduate, provided a presentation on urban agriculture research and literature review. In Eau Claire, suburban lots were studied to find percentages of space that could be converted to agriculture. A high potential was found with 18% to 34% space available in eight areas that were studied. In general, the city may have upwards of 500-750 acres of arable land in its residential neighborhoods. Promotion of the use of these spaces could help address food insecurity, health, life satisfaction, etc.

The committee thanked Ms. Garvey for her research and discussed the hurdles to residential lots including more agriculture. Ordinance wise, gardens are allowed on residential lots, but lack of education, tools, resources, time, convenience, etc. were some reasons cited.

Public Discussions

Item #5A Draft Work Plan 2023

The committee reviewed the direction provided from their last meeting. Supported items for inclusion into the work plan were:

1. Sustainable Development – Zoning Code Rewrite (tree preservation, bird-friendly design, low carbon/net zero energy development, and other REAP or Renewable Energy Action Plan strategies)
2. Energy Efficiency Navigator Program (continue work on a possible program with partners and seek additional funding like with the Energy Efficiency Conservation block Grant)

- 3. USDA Compost Project (Partner with Eau Claire County who expects to hear if an USDA grant will provide funds to develop the project)
- 4. Low/No Mow May (the City Manager already gave the committee authorization to add a Low/No Mow May possible imitative to their work plan for 2022-2023. Partner with JONAH or others for assistance)
- 4. Pollinator/ Fauna Habitat (leverage existing efforts and programs like the weed yard waiver to develop an initiative)
- 5. Sustainability Review Deferral (understand when/how/what City Council may want to defer important projects to the committee for advice and recommendations).

The committee discussed if it makes sense to break into working groups to tackle 2023 projects, but they agreed it will depend on the final work plan, resources, and what are priorities. Staff will send a draft out in advance of the next meeting.

Other Business Agenda Items

Item #6A Boyd Park E-Cacia Solar Tree Install Celebration

Members have been invited by Mr. Graff to the solar tree opening at Boyd Park on Thursday, October 20th at 10:00 am. A second place-making solar tree is planned for the future Cannery Park in 2023.

Item #6B Community Updates

The City is working with CDP and ICLEI-USA to finalize its carbon footprints.

A Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition executive networking event was held in Milwaukee on October 14th. Aimee Witteman from the Energy Foundation gave an overview of all the federal funding opportunities. Discussions focused on current actions and how to continue to leverage the group to secure funding, technical assistance, and influence policy change.

Discussion and Direction

AGENDA ITEM #7A: Future Agenda Items

None.

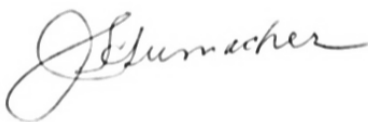
AGENDA ITEM #7B: Announcements

None.

AGENDA ITEM #8: Adjournment

Chair Faulkner adjourn the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES



Jim Schumacher, Secretary

FUTURE MEETING DATES:	TIME:	LOCATION:
November 16, 2022	3:30 p.m.	City Hall, N. Conf. Room