



City of Eau Claire
SUSTAINABILITY
 Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes
 October 18th, 2023

MISSION:

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

DATE: October 18, 2023

TIME: 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION: City Hall, North Conf. Rm.

CHAIR: Brian Graff

RECORDER: Katrina Berg, Asst. Planner

Members Present: Steve Betchkal, Cameron Bump, Brian Graff, Gary Pesicka, Janis Tyler, Gail Halmstad, Amy Kalmon

Absent: Jim Schumacher, Monica Obrycki,

Staff in attendance: Katrina Berg, Lane Berg, and Ned Noel, AICP (staff)

Public in attendance: Sue Waits, Kathy Campbell, Libby Stupak, Tyrel Zich, Benjamin Kaldunski, Breanna Reinhart

AGENDA ITEM #1: Call to Order

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

AGENDA ITEM #2: Roll Call

Brian Graff took the roll and a quorum.

AGENDA ITEM #3: Approval of July and August 2023 Meeting Minutes

Committee member Steve Betchkal made a motion to approve of the minutes. Seconded by Committee Member Amy Kalmon. Unanimously approved.

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

Guest Eleanor Wolf of the Citizen Tree Committee spoke out about the importance of trees and hope that the zoning code update will include a tree preservation ordinance. Wolf shared hopes that the committee would stand as advocates for tree preservation

Eleanor shared her concern of off-leash cats within the city the bird population

Kathy Campbell shared her concern of single use plastic, organic material, and other items that end up in the landfill. She hopes that the goal of recycling is expanded on the work plan. She stated hope that more recycling education will be promoted.

Sue Waits, JONAH, asks that the community acknowledges that single-use plastic is an issue.

Public Discussions

AGENDA ITEM: Item #5A Virtual Attendance Policy

Ms. Berg shared that a second reading of the virtual attendance policy is required for an amendment to the bylaws. Committee members spoke in support of the policy amendment. Committee member Amy Kalmon moved to approve the policy. Committee member Pesicka seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: Item #5B Update on the Energy Efficiency Navigator Program

Ms. Berg shared an updated that staff hopes to leverage EECBG funding within the voucher program and CIP funding to assist landlords in making their rentals more energy efficient.

AGENDA ITEM: Item #5C Recommendation on Xcel Energy’s Renewable Energy Rider Program

Mr. Noel shared about the shared solar program. The City is partnering with Xcel to both reach their renewable energy goals. The PSC has approved of the program, but not this specific project. Committee members spoke in support of the solar project and asked clarifying questions. The City would lock in a set rate for years to come. Committee member Pesicka made a motion to support the project and to communicate the support to city council. Committee member Halmstad seconded. Carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: Item #5D Review of Work Plan

Staff went through the work plan line by line and asked for feedback on proposed carryover work from 2023 to 2024. The committee members were agreeable to the work that will continue being on-going. Committee member Betchkal requested a change in the layout of the workplan.

Libby Stupak spoke in favor of tree preservation and protection and enforceable ordinances. Tree boulevard reimbursement fee to be revised to include trees near the sidewalk if they don't have a sidewalk. Education about lighting ordinance and more enforcement. She also spoke in favor of the bird friendly design guidelines.

Other Business Agenda Items

Item #6A Community Updates

- o Nature's Best Hope Walking Tour

Discussion and Direction

AGENDA ITEM #8A: Future Agenda Items

- Workplan update and planning

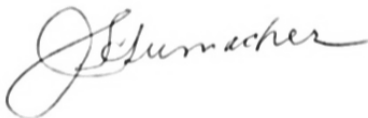
AGENDA ITEM #8B: Announcements

- Staff spoke about future local events including Green Tier Community Event and Xcel Energy Efficiency Summit.
- Committee member Kalmon mentioned Senator Baldwin's office event.

AGENDA ITEM #9: Adjournment

Committee Member Pesicka motioned to adjourn, Committee Member Betchkal seconded. The meeting adjourned the meeting at 4:41 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES



Jim Schumacher, Secretary

FUTURE MEETING DATES:	TIME:	LOCATION:
September 20th, 2023	3:30 p.m.	City Hall, N. Conf. Room