



City of Eau Claire
SUSTAINABILITY
Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2024

MISSION:

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

DATE: May 15, 2024

TIME: 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION: City Hall, North Conf. Rm.

CHAIR: Jim Schumacher

RECORDER: Ned Noel, Planning Manager

Members Present: Cameron Bump, Gail Halmstad, Gary Pesicka, Jim Schumacher, Steve Betchkal, Lily Strehlow, Rob Weber, Sekaidah Rogers,

Absent: Andrew Werthman, Janis Tyler

Staff in attendance: Katrina Berg & Ned Noel, Matt Staudenmaier

Public in attendance: Jane Mohler, Sue Waits, Regan Watts

AGENDA ITEM #1: Call to Order

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

AGENDA ITEM #2: Roll Call

Vice Chair Bump took the roll and a quorum was met.

AGENDA ITEM #3: Approval of March meeting minutes

Committee member Betchkal made a motion to approve of the minutes. Seconded by Committee member Pesicka. Unanimously approved.

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

Sue Waits announced the Earth Day event was well received and they are looking to potentially partner with UWEC next year. JONAH Environmental Task Force has concerns on the Bird Safe Design ordinance and want it to be more comprehensive.

Libby Stupak, a member of the Chippewa Valley Biodiversity Partnership wanted to approve a new version of the Bird Safe Design ordinance.

Regan Watts wants to collaborate on projects since the County passed a climate action plan recently.

Public Discussions

Item #5A Introductions of new members

Members provided introductions.

Item #5B Heat Pump

Katrina discussed the heat pump technology and the need for a contractor summit proposed for the local area. The summit could be at CVTC for a fall event. Members expressed support for the education training for the Midwest colder climate. Members encouraged reaching out to home inspectors and UW-Stout.

Regan Watts voiced that she would like to collaborate for residents to possibly attend an event in conjunction.

Item #5C Zoning Code Discussion

Ned and Katrina went over the Century Code project, starting with the landscaping draft. Perimeter setbacks, site landscaping, and parking lot screening were reviewed. Two sites were tested with the proposed codes in how they would perform.

Members asked about the species list and how it could be formed. Members also asked if they could make various parts of the code more aggressive including

Committee member Strehlow asked if green roofs could be an option. The group recommended requiring off-site trees to be located within the city and to ask if lowering the non-living material limit could be possible. Parking stall counts reduction, mobility and e-mobility standards were discussed and would like to consider those more in the future rounds of code.

Tree Preservation was covered with exemptions, coverage types of forested, woodland and minimum covers sites. Steps on tree preservation were reviewed, with the existing and proposed conditions, replacement values were reviewed.

Staff member Staudenmaier talked about the size concerns on larger trees not growing as well as smaller trees and that enforcement, accountability, and education make a difference.

Committee member Halmstad mentioned Lake Wissota was a example of maintaining quality riparian buffers.

Committee member Strehlow would like to see more landscaping islands to reduce parking surfaces.

Discussion and Direction

AGENDA ITEM #7A: Future Agenda Items

The Sustainable Eau Claire Awards will be given out at the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #8: Adjournment

Committee member Strehlow motioned to adjourn, Chair Jim Schumacher seconded. The meeting adjourned the meeting at 5 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES



Gail Halmstad, Secretary

FUTURE MEETING DATES:	TIME:	LOCATION:
June 19th	3:30 p.m.	City Hall, N. Conf. Room