

CITY OF WAUSAU SUSTAINABILITY, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Time and Date: The Sustainability, Energy and Environment Committee met on Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room of Wausau City Hall and virtually via WebEx

Members Present: John Kroll (C), Ashley Lange, Mary Kluz

Members via Webex: Tom Kilian, Scott Charette

Others Present: Brad Lenz, Jerome Segura

In compliance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and transmitted to the Wausau Daily Herald in the proper manner.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Kroll called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Introductions were made.

2. Approval of Minutes from previous meetings

Lange made a motion to approve the minutes of February 22, 2022. Kluz seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Comment

Lenz said that No Mow May is moving forward. He said the Public Health and Safety Committee will be taking it up on Monday and it will go to city council on April 26th. He said there are some modifications for this year. Citizens will not be required to sign up or have a yard sign. There won't be the "citizen scientist" aspect of it, but people were excited to bring back a localized version of the program.

4. Guest Presentation: Jerome Segura, Mycoremediation Project

Jerome Segura talked about mycoremediation, which uses mushrooms to clean contaminated environments. He has been working with the Marathon County landfill and doing academic research on the topic. He has worked on hydrocarbon remediation projects, and said there is promising work being done around a variety of contaminants, such as lead, arsenic, solvents and dioxins. He said that they are beginning to look at mycoremediation for PFAS.

5. Discussion on tree planting event at Memorial Park

Kroll said that a representative from the Marathon County Citizens Climate Lobby reached out to him to see if this committee would participate in a tree planting event the day after Earth Day. He said the committee could promote itself and participate in the planting. Kroll invited members to attend. Lenz said that an agenda could be posted stating a quorum may be present but no action would be taken.

6. Discussion to draft possible resolution recommending the reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Kroll said the committee has been drafting the resolution the last couple of meetings. He said that we should finalize the "whereas" statements and eventually present it to city council. Kluz asked what route it might take. Lenz said that this committee discussed taking it to a standing committee before city council. Kroll is in favor of a presentation to the city council. Kilian said the committee is advisory to Common Council, but said Economic Development Committee could be the committee to take it to. Kroll said that the "whereas" statements could be presented to Council and their input solicited on the actions to take (i.e., keeping it open-ended at this point).

Kilian suggested confirming with the mayor and city attorney on what would allow feedback and dialogue at the meeting. He noted the Liberation and Freedom Committee's report to the council that seemed to be positive. Kluz said she would like to have communication with the council on what the Resolution would do. Charette asked if the state has a GHG goal. Kroll mentioned the WICCI report. Lange said she liked the idea of a presentation to summarize the "whereas" statements and look for feedback on the second part of the Resolution. Kroll said he is on board with a presentation and is willing to do it.

Kroll suggested adding that the WICCI report recommends municipalities develop a climate initiative plan. He also suggested adding the city's mission statement. Kluz asked if we should provide specific impacts to our area. Kroll suggested covering that in the presentation.

Kroll asked if the committee should come up with "resolved" statements. He said other places such as Eau Claire have numeric targets (e.g., for the year 2050); or it could be annual percentage improvements. Discussion followed. Lange suggested covering different options in the presentation. Kluz suggested a "resolved" should be to establish baseline measures.

7. Discussion on Sustainability Awards

Kroll recapped the history of the award. He said it has been challenging to get nominations. Kluz asked if it should be the work of this committee to generate the nominations. Lange suggested that each member could bring ideas for the group to discuss. Charette asked about how smaller groups or individuals could compete against larger corporations. Kroll noted that there are different categories, which Kluz listed. Kluz said it should be more of a "thank you" than a competition. Kluz and Kroll suggested bringing potential nominations to the next meeting.

8. Future agenda items

- Sustainability awards
- Greenhouse gas resolution
- No Mow May
- Green Tier Legacy Community

A poll will be sent out for the next meeting date.

9. Adjourn

Lange motioned to adjourn. Kluz seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.