

MINUTES

MARCH 2, 2023

Members Present: John Kroll, Carol Lukens, Jay Coldwell, Ashley Lange, Jesse Kearns

Others Present: Brad Lenz, Andrew Lynch, Dan Barth

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

Meeting started at 5:00 pm

2. Public Comment

n/a

3. Approve minutes of February 2, 2023 meeting

Coldwell suggested a correction in item 8. Changing 'Coldwell' to 'Lange' in the fourth sentence. Motion by Coldwell. Second by Lange. Approve the minutes with suggested edit. Passed Unanimously.

4. Updates: Greenhouse Gas Resolution and Sustainability Award

Lynch updated the committee on the Public Health and Safety committee meeting where the Resolution was passed unanimously. Overall, the alderpersons seemed positive about the resolution. Alder Henke thought the timeline was ambitious. Alder Diny asked how this would fit into federal and state goals. The resolution will be considered (tentative) at the March 14th City Council meeting. Several SEEC members noted they would go to the meeting to provide public comment in support of the resolution.

5. Discussion and Possible Action: Earth Day Tree Planting April 22nd at 10th Street Park

Kroll noted that the committee had been invited to attend the annual tree planting for Earth Day. Dan Barth Citizens Climate Lobby and NAOMI in partnership with the City Parks Department are organizing the yearly tree planting at the Tenth St Park. Called the Earth Day Beloved Community Celebration to make it as inclusive as possible. Will plant about 10 trees, each represent different groups in the area. Mayor Rosenberg will dedicate the trees. After the planting is a talking circle regarding Earth Day. Kearns noted that he grew up playing at that park and was excited to see some trees planted where there are none now. Kroll noted that if the committee was going to attend there would need to be a meeting notice issued due to possibility of a quorum. Barth noted they are limited to 10 trees by donations and also sales of cloth shopping bags. Barth's group was told they had inspired other groups in the area to plant trees as well. Planting will be at 10am.

6. Discussion: UniverCity Year Program: ByFusion plastic waste repurposing technology

The City and the UniverCity Year Program are entering a partnership that will pair City projects and studies with the resources of the UW system. Multiple City departments have projects and one of those is an

evaluation of the ByBlock. ByBlock is a reuse of plastic waste to create building materials. The City has been talking with the company ByFusion and while this is an interesting technology there are several implementation questions to answer. The UniverCity Year application was written to have students answer many of those questions and explore the feasibility of this technology. City staff has discussed the project with the program manager who will then match up the project with interested students and programs. Work on the study is expected to begin in the Fall semester of 2023. SEEC will be the overseeing committee and can help shape the study and will receive a presentation of the results. Lukens noted that while this is an interesting technology we shouldn't lose sight of reducing the use of plastics.

7. Discussion: Municipal Role in Food Systems Resilience

No updates on this item as committee member Mary Kluz was not able to attend. Future meetings on this topic could include input from the local USDA staff.

8. Next meeting date: April 6

Lukens noted a special Economic Development meeting on this date. It was suggested to move the time up to 4pm instead.

9. Adjourn

Motion by Lange/Second by Kearns. Passed Unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.