

MINUTES

November 9, 2023

Members Present: John Kroll, Mary Kluz, Jesse Kearns, Carol Lukens, Jay Coldwell, Jean Abreu

Others Present: Dan Barth, Cathy Barth, Andrew Lynch

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 5:00pm

2. Public Comment

Dan Barth: Encouraged and grateful for the work of this committee. Offer help on the GHG from Citizens Action, Citizen Climate Lobby, and NAOMI. Recommended Kathy Kuntz from Dane Co for information on IRA.

Kathy Barth: Noted the importance of the new Federal Farm Bill that is awaiting authorization and the impact it can have on conservation efforts.

3. Approve minutes of October 5, 2023 meeting

Motion/second by Abreu/Kearns to approve minutes as amended. Passed unanimously.

4. Updates: GHG Baseline, WLGCC, GTLC, Midwest Climate Resiliency Conference

Lynch noted that several of the items in the GTLC and GHG metrics were the same so data gathering would benefit both. Included in the packet is a report by Jay Coldwell on the Conference. Kroll noted an interesting item was the use of ARPA by Stoughton to fund a sustainability manager. Lukens noted that City ARPA funds were almost all allocated and that creating a new staff position was not likely to be approved. Abreu noted the mobilization of the community was a common theme.

5. Discussion and Possible Action: EJ Screen metrics selection

Kroll noted the committee homework was to find several metrics that would be presented to the City Council every 2 years and maybe more frequently. The information could be compared to national or state levels and city staff could split the data out by aldermanic district. Kearns found a report that listed all the data points for a specific area. This report is from the EJ screen and is formatted nicely with clear information. He suggested that report is used and the committee agreed. Kluz wondered what the alders would react more strongly too and if future reports could be tailored to their feedback. Lynch said he would take with the GIS staff to create a report by district and city-wide that mirrors the EJ generated report and fulfills the EJ resolution. He noted that with this approach, some time will have to be devoted to making sure everyone understood the rankings and percentiles of the various categories.

6. Discussion and Possible Action: City website Sustainability page

The committee discussed how to shape the categories for information on the website and Kluz posed the question of what is the purpose of the information. Members felt it was important to list Sustainability Awards, local food options, GHG resolution, committee schedule, public comment, Composting, educational opportunities. Kroll suggested three main categories: City information, Resources for Residents, Get Involved. Lynch felt this was useful direction and noted that categories and items could always change in the future. Lynch will work with other city staff to build out the page. It would likely be done in early 2024.

7. Discussion: Chair Kroll presentation to Stevens Point Council

Kroll explained that he had been approached by a group in Stevens Point that wants to petition their City Council to create a similar Sustainability committee. Anyone may offer their suggestions or stories to the group or at a future public comment period in Stevens Point. Kroll has also talked in the past with similar groups in Wisconsin Rapids and surrounding areas.

8. Next meeting date: December 7

9. Adjourn

Motion/Second by Kluz/Abreu. Approved unanimously. Adjourned at 6:02 pm