City of Wausau **Sustainability, Energy and Environment Committee**

MINUTES

February 1, 2024

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

Others Present: Andrew Lynch, Christine Daniels, Natalie Doering

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

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1. Welcome and Introductions

Meeting started at 5:00pm

2. Public Comment

n/a

3. Approve minutes of January 11, 2024 meeting

Motion/second by Kearns/Lukens to approve minutes. Passed unanimously.

4. Presentation: Blaine Haupt

This presentation was moved to the March meeting due to scheduling conflicts.

4. Updates: GHG Baseline, WLGCC, GTLC, Task Force

Lynch is still waiting on the remaining 6 months of energy use data from WPS. He sent a reminder email to WPS after the last meeting and expected it any day now. Kluz noted that the baseline measurement was one aspect but wants to know what the city is currently doing. Abreu asked what could be done while waiting for the baseline data. She suggested developing questions for the department heads about energy use and inviting them to the committee to discuss. Coldwell asked about the Climate Action Plan and Lynch noted the plan is to use the DOE voucher program to have a consultant write that. Kroll suggested having the next steps for the GHG plan as an agenda item next month. Abreu and Kluz also suggested that information for helping the residents take advantage of the IRA funds is a part of the GHG resolution. Committee asked to see the GTLC scorecard at the next meeting.

Lynch spoke with Mayor Rosenberg about how a Local Foods task force would be formed. This has been done recently with the Affordable housing and Solar Energy task forces. It would have to be approved by a standing committee, with a defined set of members and some clear goals. Lynch suggested that the goals of such a group is defined and that whatever recommendations come out of it the City has authority and resources to do something. Coldwell noted this was good to think about and that more specificity was needed but it could still be something the City takes the lead on. Kroll liked the idea of a narrowed scope.

5. Discussion and Possible Action: 'No Mow May' alternative program selection

Lynch recapped the history of Now Mow May for the City and asked that a decision on a new program be made tonight so there was time to create media and marketing for the May rollout. He has talked with

Danielle Taub from Roastar about some marketing help and Natalie Doering is a East student that is looking for a capstone project and interested in this topic. Kearns suggested keeping No Mow May and adding a Slow Mow Summer to help people transition. Kroll asked if that meant the suspension of the ordinance on grass height. Kluz felt the program should be new and that people would get used to it. Lukens noted the potential for saving water with healthier lawns. Kroll liked the idea of having seasonal themes, especially the 'Leave Your Leaves' in the fall. This is likely the project for the East student to develop.
Kluz/Abreu made a motion and second to change the program to Slow Your Mow. The motion passed unanimously. Lynch will work on having materials developed to present at the future meetings.

7. Discussion: UniverCity Year Program ByBlock report

Lynch recapped the history of the ByBlock idea with the City. This was suggested as a way for the Business Park businesses to reduce their plastic waste and provide a usable building material. The UniverCity students explored this technology for their semester class from a structural, economic, and environmental perspective. Included in the packet is their full report and a more indepth analysis of the Cost-Benefit. Kearns summarized it well by noting that it was an interesting technology but the end product is likely not easily usable and unproven.

8. Next meeting date: March 7

9. Adjourn

Motion/Second by Kluz/Kearns. Approved unanimously. Adjourned at 6:15 pm