

MINUTES

June 6, 2024

Members Present: Jay Coldwell, Jean Abreu, Mary Kluz, Christine Daniels

Others Present: Andrew Lynch, Doug Diny, Raymond Daniels, Dora Gorski, Mary Hoffman

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. Election of Committee Chair

Coldwell nominated Kluz. Kluz accepted. No other nominations. All voted in favor of Kluz as chair.

3. Public Comment

n/a

4. Discussion and Possible Action: Slow Your Mow updates and next steps

The Slow Your Mow graphic was sent to all committee members. Lynch suggested they could post it on social media to help promote. The graphic was made by Danielle Taube from Roastar. Abreu asked if there could be a press release and media interest in the Slow Your Mow effort Alder Lukens could be the contact. Coldwell asked if signs could be made to help promote effort. Lynch noted that funding would have to be allocated or we could charge for the signs. Kluz would prefer that the signs not be plastic. Daniels offered to research an alternative. Diny suggested the videographer could make some promotional videos. Staff should make Parks aware of this as well in case they are asked questions regarding their own practices.

5. Discussion and Possible Action: Solar Array update – Jay Coldwell

Coldwell is a member of the Task Force and they recently made a recommendation for Scenario 1A that would have the shortest payback period of 10-15 years. Their goal was to have no impact on water rates and they could structure the debt payments with savings. They are going to make an ARPA request for financing. There is also an effort to have a prairie grass installation around the panel site to promote a healthy eco-system and reduce maintenance.

6. Discussion and Possible Action: Communications with City Council

The committee desires to make a report to the Common Council regarding their activities since the GHG resolution. Lynch noted they could write a report on the Slow Your Mow, EJ resources, WLGCC, Green Tier, GHG energy data and update, block grant funds for Climate Action Plan, and planned meetings with Directors. Kluz thought it would be better to report soon since there are new members so they could understand how the committee serves the constituents. Lynch noted that even with Council only meeting once per month during the summer shouldn't be an issue to make a short report. Kluz suggested also

discussing some of the challenges staff and committee have faced. Lynch agreed and noted that sustainability is such an involved and deep topic area that he feels there may be funding left on the table. Kluz suggested a discussion of Sustainability Manager. Such a position could implement the Climate Action Plan and make sure that initiatives are followed and opportunities are found for funding and technology. Committee asked staff to come back at the next meeting with an example job description and information so they could make a resolution on sending it to the HR committee. Coldwell suggested that a position like that could pay for itself. Lynch agreed but didn't know how to prove it. Diny noted that there is a need for a Grants writer and maybe that could be half of the position. Abreu asked if Stevens Point and Wausau could share. Lynch suggested there could be a shared position between Wausau and Marathon County and perhaps other communities.

7. Discussion and Possible Action: Development of survey for city departments

Kluz suggested this not be considered a survey but a conversation. Kluz and Coldwell pulled together a report from 2021 to provide context on what is likely to happen in NC Wisconsin because of climate change. The WICCI report is in the packet. Kluz noted they would like a list of things from the departments that the committee could advocate for. The conversation questions are a start and there may be more as these interviews are done. Coldwell suggested also discussing that north of Madison, Wisconsin there will be less change than other areas of the country and are there ways the City is preparing for that event. Lynch said the context and questions would be provided to directors ahead of time, the meeting scheduled, and other staff included as needed. Daniels asked who from the committee would be at this meeting. It would be a staff member and up to two committee members. Lynch noted the timeline may stretch out due to time coordination and summer schedules.

8. Discussion and Possible Action: Membership & meeting time update

Lynch welcomed Christine Daniels as a new member. There is still one spot open. Applicants should fill out the Citizens Participation Form on the City website.

9. Next meeting date: TBD

The committee suggested meeting next on July 11 to avoid the 4th of July holiday. Staff will check date for availability and notify.

10. Adjourn

Motion/Second by Abreu/Coldwell. Approved unanimously. Adjourned at 6:16 pm