

MINUTES

September 5, 2024

Members Present: Jay Coldwell, Mary Kluz, Jesse Kearns, Carol Lukens,

Others Present: Andrew Lynch, Susan Woods, Joel Lewis

In compliance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, 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 5:03 pm

**2. Public Comment**

n/a

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the August 8 Meeting**

Kearns/Lukens motion/second to approve. All vote in favor.

**4. Presentation: City Hall Pollinator Friendly Garden – Natalie Doering**

Natalie was not able attend due to a school conflict. Jean Abreu sent along an essay written by Natalie about her project. Lukens will follow up with Natalie to see if a presentation at Council is possible.

**5. Discussion and Possible Action: Committee Work Plans**

Kluz discussed the desire to have a focused set of items the committee would work on. These items are informed by the committee directives and the various resolutions and plans that guide committee work. Coldwell suggested creating a vision of what the city would look like in 2050 and working back from there. Kluz suggested an outside facilitator to lead a process that would determine the vision of the committee and the priorities to make that happen. Kluz will look into a facilitator. Lukens suggested making sure there was a clear understanding of the definition of sustainability and the scope of the committee. Lynch will help find dates in October to have some extended sessions, possibly the next meeting time.

**6. Discussion and Possible Action: Fall Yard Care Promotion**

Abreu, Lukens, and Kluz contributed to writing an article for the city newsletter on Fall yard care. The initiative, related to Slow Your Mow, is called Leave Your Leaves and encourages keeping leaves on yards over the winter. Lynch is checking with the graphic artist about creating an image to promote the effort. Lukens also noted that a winter effort around salt use could be up for discussion at future meetings. Lynch suggested the statewide resource of Salt Wise.

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**7. Discussion and Possible Action: Sustainability Manager Position Description**

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Lynch provided an updated position description that consolidated the various examples and narrowed the scope to municipal operations. Kluz suggested a more explicit statement on clarity of purpose which could include the directives of the GHG resolution, the future Climate Action Plan, creating cost savings for the city, and includes a description of success. Kearns noted that the task before the HR committee was to describe why this position would be beneficial. To better outline the benefits to the city as a whole. Kearns offered to do research on the impact a Sustainability Manager could have on similar sized cities.

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**8. Update: Solar Array timeline, Committee Report to Council**

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Lynch noted that there were two different actions related to the Solar Array project. The ARPA funds and the authorization of the project itself. The ARPA funds were due for a vote at Council but have not come up yet. There seemed to be a lack of information on how the Array project will move forward. Lynch will follow up with Finance and DPW. Several members voiced the desire to encourage people to provide public comment and submit petitions in favor of the project.

Kluz will present the committee report to Council on September 10.

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**9. Next meeting date: October 3**

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**10. Adjourn**

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Motion/Second by Coldwell/Kearns. Approved unanimously. Adjourned at 6:39 pm