

MINUTES
April 3, 2025

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

Others Present: John Kroll, Monette Bedow-Reinhart, 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 5:03 pm

2. Public Comment

John Kroll invited the committee to comment on the City Comprehensive Plan. There will be a general input session in the future.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the March 6 Meeting

Abreu/Coldwell motion/second to approve. Unanimous vote to approve.

4. Discussion and Possible Action: Work Plan reports

- a. Sustainability Manager – Andy – done interviewing for HR Director. Waiting for that person to start before they decide on a new process for position requests. Interviews started for Assistant City Planner, unsure if that new person will run the committee or not yet. The open position in this committee has been filled by Britnie Remer, will be appointed at next Council meeting.
- b. Media and Public Education – Christine, Jean –
 - i. Future Radio Spots – Past radio spots went well, they spoke about pollinators and spring cleanup, hold off on it. There are so many topics and it's easy to get off topic, planning to keep it related to spring cleanup and info for April. Will also do spots on solar, CSA, farmers market, etc. Tree planting on April 26 will be at Westview Park on Bissell St, will be planting fruit trees.
- c. Official Education – Jesse – How do we get topics in front of elected officials and council?
 - i. Topics for Council: solar
- d. Working w/Departments – Andy, Mary – Parks Dept and exploring permeable pavers. The concern is that they might have to do storm water capture. Would permeable pavers take away the need for storm water capture? TJ, stormwater engineer, states that they work great the first year but they get really blocked up (sand, leaves, etc) in subsequent years. It may be a better/cheaper option than blacktop due to higher psi used in production.
- e. Policy and framework to guide decisions, etc – Dive into deeper next month. A Sustainability Manager would help with moving decisions/ideas forward. What we need and why we need it in the information for all items. When building new buildings and looking at cost, we should start looking at the cost to heat/cool the building as well.

- f. Farmers Market and Food Stop – Jay – Can we get increased funding from the State for local farmers to be able to provide more fresh food to the citizens and keep our farmers in business? Wording for the statement requesting support would be: *The City of Wausau's Sustainability, Energy and Environment Committee requests that the state legislature fund the Local Food Procurement Assistance (LFPA) program in the state budget. Continue this program because it has been incredibly impactful in bringing fresh and nutritious food to city residents in need.* To be bolstered by data from the Marathon County Hunger Coalition.

Statement motioned to approve by Kluz, seconded by Abreu. Unanimous vote to approve.

5. Next meeting date: May 1

Discuss art project with Rise Up, Newsletter, committee membership, Policy/Framework ideas, Council presentation.

6. Adjourn

Motion/Second by Lukens/Coldwell. Approved unanimously. Adjourned at 6:25 pm
