
MINUTES
June 5, 2025

Members Present: Jean Abreu (C), Carol Lukens, Jay Coldwell, Mark Kluz, Jesse Kearns, Christine Daniels, and Britnie Remer

Others Present: Mayor Doug Diny, Eric Lindman, Andrew Lynch, Carrie Edmondson, Monette Bebow-Reinhart, and Dan Zinsmeister, Elise Couillard and Matthew Ploeger from Couillard Solar Foundation attended virtually for presentation.

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

Chair Abreu called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and the group did introductions.

2. Public Comment

Monette Bebow Reinhart stated that she is dealing with invasives in her yard and would like more information about this.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the April 3, 2025, and May 1, 2025, Meetings

Chair Abreu noted a name misspelled on the April minutes. *Jay/Mary motion/second – approved with modifications unanimously.*

Chair Abreu noted a correction on who prepared media and public education on the May minutes. *Carol/Mark motion/second – approved with modifications unanimously.*

4. City solar project update and grant presentation

Elise Couillard and Matthew Ploeger presented on funding opportunities and options available with the Couillard Foundation. They reviewed various options including adding community solar to the water utility solar project. They presented two funding scenarios and discussed other projects they had completed in Wisconsin. The group asked for clarification on tax sponsorship and community solar options. They then discussed the best strategy for the Committee. Public Works Director Eric Lindman said he would follow up with this group and consider this along with other funding options. The Committee decided to prepare a letter of support for the project to get in front of various committees and Council in late summer/fall as the budget process unfolds.

5. Discussion and Possible Action: Work Plan reports

- a. Sustainability Manager – Carrie/Andy –
 - i. Met with Lisa Nowak about the creation of a dedicated sustainability position. The most significant items to address are where it would be housed and how it would be funded. Carrie stated that different models are being explored.
 - ii. The SolSmart program to make solar accessible through permitting and planning was discussed. The Committee was in support of the program and the item will remain on the agenda and likely begin in the fall.

- b. Media and Public Education – Christine, Jean –
 - i. Carol and Jean did the May radio spot on pesticide use. Mary noted that she saw Slow Mow May in Wausau City Pages. Slow Mow May is in the newsletter, but the pesticide article was removed due to space limitations. It will be repurposed for fall.
 - ii. Future Radio Spots – Christine noted that Tuesday June 24 is the radio show. Solar would be a good topic and she would do that spot. Mary noted that repurposing art would be a good topic for July.

Jesse Kearns left the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

- c. Elected Official Education – Jesse –
 - i. Topics for Council: Stated that solar would be a good topic. Andy noted that through summer there is one City Council meeting per month. Jay noted that the Committee’s letter of support for the City solar project should come out this month. The group agreed it would be advantageous to present the letter to the CIP Committee and City Council in person.
- d. Working w/Departments – Carrie, Mary – Carrie presented notes on meetings with Randy Fifrick, Development Director and Arran Hersey, Metro Ride Director and noted there is in invite out for availability with the Police Department. Once all department meetings have been completed, the Committee will receive the notes from all meetings.
- e. Policy and framework to guide decisions, etc – No new report.
- f. Farmers Market and Food Stop – Jay – He is exploring the idea of a survey to find how much local food people are eating in various food categories with the goal of increasing that percentage. Carrie stated that she has begun conversations with UW Extension and that she would connect with Jay with information around this topic.

6. Updates – Rise up art shirt activity

Mary stated that Rise Up will be holding an art activity on the 9th or 16th possibly on the 400 block and some shirts will include the SEEC seasonal slogans. Shirts will be repurposed into flags. Slow your mow (spring), don’t be so salty (winter), leave your leaves (fall), and prioritize pollinators (summer) will be the slogans used.

Christine inquired about someone who had applied for the SEEC.

6. Next meeting date: July 3 (confirm quorum)

Due to the Fourth of July Holiday, If the Thursday following is not available, Carrie will poll the group on an alternative meeting date.

7. Adjourn

Mary/Christine motion/second - approved unanimously. Adjourned at 6:41 p.m.