

MINUTES

November 6, 2025

Members Present: Jean Abreu (C), Alder Carol Lukens, Christine Daniels, Jesse Kearns, Britnie Remer, Daniel Zinsmeister, and Lauren Leitner

Others Present: Susan Haug, Mayor Doug Diny, and Carrie Edmondson

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 5:01 p.m.

2. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

3. Approval of the October 2, 2025, meeting minutes

Jesse/Dan motion/second to approve the minutes – approved 6-0.

4. Susan Haug – Bird City presentation

Susan Haug, coordinator of the City’s Bird City application, provided an overview of the application. She provided more information about ways the City could improve the application.

The Committee decided that one of two members would have continued conversation with Susan and bring potential ideas back to SEEC.

Alder Carol Lukens arrived.

5. Discussion and Possible Action: Work Plan reports

- Sustainability Manager – Carrie
 - 2025 Year in Review/Work Plan update
 - The City has been awarded SolSmart Silver designation by the SolSmart team.
 - There were no Wausau Sustainability Awards received by the October 19 deadline. This item will be put on the agenda again in February and there was discussion about reaching out to individual businesses directly and posting a physical flyer at like-minded businesses and/or the Farmers Market.
 - An EPA grant was submitted for the City solar array project.
- Media and Public Education –
 - Future radio spots -
 - November – Year in Review (Jesse)
 - December – Salt (Carol)
 - January – Backyard Gardening Class
 - Newsletter deadlines - 2026

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- 3/6/26 – spring newsletter
 - 6/5/26 – summer newsletter
 - 9/11/26 – fall newsletter
 - WLGCC – Equinox Creative Communications materials are available to share with group members for educational/marketing needs.
- Elected Official Education – Jesse
 - SEEC plans to provide more Common Council education/outreach once the 2026 Work Plan is established.
 - Working w/Departments
 - This item is completed and is included in the packet.
 - Policy and framework to guide decisions, etc.
 - Carrie reviewed a Five-Year Climate Action Work Plan template from the Great Plains Institute. A planning process will be brought forward as part of the Work Plan discussion.
 - Farmers Market and Food Stop
 - Carrie and Jean met with Janell and she provided a proposed class structure, format, and location. The group noted that the Marathon County Public Library (MCPL) would be provide the best location. The overarching framing would be sustainability benefits to growing your own food locally. Benefits include reduced emissions from transporting food, reduced packaging, and organic methods. Jean noted that seed/plant donations would be a good addition to the program.

Britnie Remer and Christine Daniels left the meeting.

- Jean noted that we may want to use media to help with marketing (City Pages, Wausau Pilot and Review) and post flyers at Downtown Grocery, MCPL, Neighbor’s Place. A media protocol will be added to the February agenda.

6. Next meeting date: January 2026 TBD

Mary Kluz will be coordinating the Work Plan in January. Carrie will poll the group for availability.

Lauren Leitner left the meeting.

7. Adjourn

Jesse/Dan motion/second - approved 4-0. Adjourned at 6:35 p.m.