

SUSTAINABLE LA CROSSE COMMISSION

Thursday, October 28, 2010

Room 3220, La Crosse County Administrative Center, 400 N. 4th St., La Crosse

4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marilyn Pedretti, Dan Bagniewski, Mike Giese, Brad Konkel (4:03; exc. 4:40), Wayne Olson, R. Jean Salk (4:03), Rob Tyser

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Jai Johnson, Eric Schmidt

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Nick Nichols, Margaret Norden, Karl Green, Maureen Freedland, Dale Hexom

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Marilyn Pedretti called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

APPROVE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2010

MOTION by Giese/Tyser to approve the Minutes of September 23, 2010. **Motion carried unanimously.** Johnson, Konkel, Salk, Schmidt excused.

AGENCY REPORTS

None requested.

SOLID WASTE EVALUATION REPORT UPDATE / AD HOC IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Nick Nichols reported that a presentation will be given to the City of Onalaska Public Works Committee and the City of La Crosse Common Council. He reviewed the solid waste study, particularly automatic collection, single stream recycling, recycling costs, system carbon footprint, and coordinated collection. Mike Giese spoke about the perception that citizens have of receiving free collection because services are paid from the general fund. Discussion was held regarding the sticker shock that can occur with user fees, and the need for public education to create awareness and change behavior. Further discussion was held regarding alternatives for user fees, such as volume-based fees. Karl Green reported there have been similar discussions regarding a storm water utility fee. Nichols reported there will be an informational meeting for business and the general public on the solid waste study at the Lunda Center at Western Technical College, tentatively scheduled for November 10, 2010.

CITY OF LA CROSSE HOUSING STUDY

Karl Green presented his study regarding the inequity of urban vs. suburban property values and taxes in La Crosse County, and the impact of low property values on the City of La Crosse's ability to sustain public services. He pointed out that higher taxes in the City contribute to urban sprawl, which places increased demands on suburban infrastructure, causes encroachment on natural areas, and increases transportation volume and use of fossil fuels. Discussion was held regarding promotion of regional mass transit and the possibility of residential TIF districts. Mike Giese commented on subsidization of suburbia, and cited ARRA funding for suburban busing. Dale Hexom spoke about the perception of a lack of parking in downtown La Crosse while City parking ramps continuously have unused spaces.

BASELINE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Rob Tyser reported the committee is on the verge of being completed with their study.

GREEN CERTIFICATION POLICY UPDATE

The topic was referred to the next meeting.

WEBSITE COMMITTEE UPDATE

There was no update. The item will be taken off the agenda unless there is need for a further report.

INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

Karl Green reported he was contacted by a Michigan business that produces compost bins and rain barrels and can do truckload sales. He asked if that would be something the Commission would want to promote. The item will be placed on a future agenda.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Presentation on proposed free market to be able to trade unused items

Year-end review and possible retreat

Promotion of compost bins and/or rain barrels

NEXT MEETING

Due to the conflict between the regular meeting date and the Thanksgiving holiday, the meeting will be held one week earlier, on Thursday, November 18, 2010, at 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Olson/Salk to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** Johnson, Konkel, Schmidt excused. Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Approved, November 18, 2010, Margaret Norden, Recorder