

SUSTAINABLE LA CROSSE COMMISSION

Thursday, January 27, 2011

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, Wayne Olson (4:05 p.m.), R. Jean Salk, Rob Tyser

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Jai Johnson, Eric Schmidt

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brad Konkel

OTHERS PRESENT: Nick Nichols, Margaret Norden, Karl Green, Jim Speropulos, Jerry Severson, Beth Piggush, Larry Kirch, Dale Hexom, Nathan Patros, Tom Thompson

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Marilyn Pedretti called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

APPROVE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18, 2010

MOTION by Bagniewski/Salk to approve the Minutes of November 18, 2010. **Motion carried unanimously.** Johnson, Olson, Schmidt excused; Konkel absent.

FACILITIES DEPARTMENT REPORT ON ITS PART IN STRATEGIC PLAN FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Jim Speropulos reported on the Facilities Department's accomplishments toward meeting the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan for Sustainability. Each item in the Plan was listed and reported, as follows:

1. Energy audit for all buildings: Energy savings strategies have been implemented in all buildings, and were incorporated in the LEC plan. The expense of a county-wide audit is not feasible at this time.
2. Efficient lighting and signage: Solar-powered lighting has been installed at Goose Island, and daylight sensors are planned in all naturally lit lobbies and other areas. LED lighting is planned for parking lot C.
3. Incorporate smart power strips: This is part of future planning.
4. Annual chiller tune-ups: Chillers are tuned yearly, and also cleaned on a rotating basis.
5. Incorporate renewable energy systems into buildings: Solar hot water systems have been installed in the LEC building and at Lakeview Health Care.
6. Evaluate four-day work week: This is an administration and County Board responsibility.
7. Estimate greenhouse gas emissions: No activity.
8. Eliminate vehicular carbon footprint: Replacement of current fleet is not feasible at this time, but will be taken into consideration when vehicle replacements are made.
9. Centralized recycling program: Paper recycling and recycling bins in all break rooms have been implemented.
10. Natural landscaping: There is more grassy area around the LEC building.
11. Increase storm water infiltration: Bio retention basins were installed in parking lot A.
12. LEED standards for building/remodeling: There has been no direction from County Board to follow LEED standards; however, measures have been implemented that qualified for Focus on Energy incentives.

ANNUAL CODE OF ETHICS REVIEW FOR CITY MEMBERS

The City of La Crosse requested a review of the City's Code of Ethics for City members Jai Johnson and Eric Schmidt. However, since both were excused from the meeting, the item was deferred to the February 24, 2011, meeting. Larry Kirch will follow up.

AD HOC SOLID WASTE COMMISSION UPDATE AND POSSIBLE ACTION IN SUPPORT

Mike Giese reported that the matter will go to Onalaska's Board of Public Works, and hopefully to the City Council the following week. He has talked to La Crosse Mayor Harter, and anticipates cooperation between the two cities and an opportunity for significant advantages for the communities.

BASELINE COMMITTEE REPORT

Karl Green presented graphs showing city and county electric use, and county gas use. He reported that the graphs do not include Hillview and Carroll Heights because that data was not included in the Xcel figures, and he will adjust the graphs when he has that data. He cited the Administrative Center, HHS Building, Law Enforcement Center, Goose Island Park, and Lakeview Health Care as using the most energy, representing a total of 94% total electric consumption over the 3/2005 – 10/2010 time period. He stated he will be graphing City of La Crosse data when that is complete. Discussion was held about the ability to explain changes over time, the measurement base to be used (e.g. total usage or square footage), and the need to publish complete information on the website.

REPORT ON INTERN INTEREST

Nick Nichols stated there was interest from a Viterbo University student who would like to intern. Chair Pedretti reported interest from UW-La Crosse, as well. Discussion was held about projects and expectations. The intern's particular interests should be taken into account before assigning a project.

AGENCY REPORTS

- Viterbo University degrees in Sustainability – Jean Salk was part of a task force to establish Viterbo's new bachelor's degree offerings in environmental sustainability and sustainable management. They have now approved three academic tracks with a seven course core curriculum and a field practicum.
- City of La Crosse Planning Department – Larry Kirch reported they have six interns in the Planning Department and are working on a new hire. They are looking at staffing to provide support to the Sustainable La Crosse Commission.

NOTE: Chair Pedretti took the following item out of order.

INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

Jerry Severson reported that he and Nick Nichols and Andy Wettstein have been looking at possible solar electric projects that can be presented to a class for four to five days.

2011 GOAL REVIEW

A summary of the ordinance that created the Commission was provided with member packets. The Commission reviewed the duties and powers established in the ordinance. Discussion was held about policy recommendations, reviewing the Sustainability Plan, and holding a retreat. The Commission determined that their next meeting will be held off-site. The regular meeting will be followed by a goal-setting session.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Harbor Commission waterfront plan input
Complete Streets
Green Expo
Metropolitan Planning Organization long term goals (April)

NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 24, 2011

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Giese/Tyser to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** Johnson, Schmdt excused; Konkel absent. Meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Approved, February 24, 2011, Margaret Norden, Recorder