

SUSTAINABLE LA CROSSE COMMISSION

Thursday, March 22, 2012
City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room,
400 La Crosse St.
4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marilyn Pedretti, Dan Bagniewski, R. Jean Salk (arrived 4:17), Sara Sullivan, Rob Tyser, Sharon Hampson

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Mike Giese, Wayne Olson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dick Swantz

OTHERS PRESENT: Jacky Kallberg, Beth Piggush, Erica Black, Bryan Jostad, Amy Peterson, Jacob LaRow

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Marilyn Pedretti called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

APPROVE MINUTES OF February 23, 2012

MOTION by Hampson/Bagniewski to approve the minutes of February 22, 2012. **Motion carried unanimously.**

AGENCY REPORTS/ INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

- None.

STAFF REPORTS

- Climate Change Forum Update: 25 pages of comments have been synthesized by the DNR and were handed out to the Commission. Peterson wanted to provide the Commission a draft so they could get a feel about the comments. A report will be ready for the meeting in April. The DNR and Wisconsin Department of Health have been looking for grants in this area and they have found an EPA technical assistance grant. The DNR will assist in applying for the grant. Peterson is looking to add some educational components to the process and asked the Commission for ideas, e.g. another public meeting.
- Sustainability Business Conference: Chair Pedretti reported that the conference will take place on June 6, 2012 with Jeff Thompson of Gundersen Lutheran and Lee Rasch of Wisconsin Technical College as keynote speakers. The event will run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a networking reception to follow. Nick Nichols will provide more information at the next Commission meeting.

BASELINE WORK GROUP PRESENTATION – TYSER/SALK

- Rob Tyser provided a hand out and reviewed it with the Commission. Raintry Salk, Nichols, Karl Green, Peterson, and Tyser worked to provide data for the indicators indentified in the Sustainable Master Plan and they will unveil their work on Earth Day. They are looking at having a 15 minute presentation with slide show at the Eco Park. The group would like to present the findings to City and County personnel to give them an opportunity to lead by example. A written report will also be provided with the slide show. The group would also tie the indicators to Natural Step Principles; with social data to be collected. More slides would be added to

presentation prior to Earth Day. Tyser said that the group would like more direction on what steps to take next.

GREEN BUILDING WORK GROUP REPORT - PEDRETTI

- Chair Pedretti invited Bryan Jostad from the County Finance Department to speak. Jostad reviewed a handout with the Commission. In August of 2008 the County Board established a sustainable provision within the County's Purchasing Policy. The purchasing policy affected purchases less than \$20,000. A policy or guideline for items above \$20,000 is still in the works. Sustainable aspects is a category added in the process for evaluating products for purchase in addition to more traditional ones such as price, performance, etc. Jostad indicated that they are looking to establish a 3% weight to sustainable aspects to formalize and add weight to the process in which items are purchased. In response from questions from the Commission, Jostad said the 3% number was established because it was a small enough number to add weight to decision making, but yet was a good starting point to determine its effectiveness and potential future adjustment. As well, 3% was more palatable to members that are not as attuned to sustainability.

A RESOLUTION ON A GREEN BUILDING POLICY - PEDRETTI

- Chair Pedretti sought comments and concerns regarding the draft resolution. Commission members discussed the use of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) by reference in the resolution. Some members thought that LEED carried political baggage and could affect the passage of the resolution. Others thought sustainability in general carries such baggage by those resistant to the concept in general. Suggestions were made to add language referencing Energy Star Standards or changing wording to indicate LEED, Energy Star or equivalent standards to add flexibility. Still other concerns were about removing redundancies, condensing the resolution, and creating separate resolutions for facilities and purchasing. Pedretti will take comments back to the work group.

EPA PORTFOLIO MANAGER – PETERSON/PIGGUSH

- Beth Piggush informed the Commission that she has been entering data from the City. The program feeds right into baseline group work and it will help in assessing a building's energy use. The manager uses Energy Star standards and only tracks water and energy use. Scores are based on a 100 point scale and those scores at 75 or above are eligible for Energy Star certification. In the community, Piggush said the schools are taking the lead, with WTC in particular. Piggush stressed the importance of using benchmarks to tell the story of progress made or lost. Piggush identified potential problems in that the manager requires monthly data inputs, but some data is only collected on a quarterly or yearly basis. Some data is easier to break down than others. Wastewater is accounted for separately than in water. Clarifying metering is also a challenge when there may be multiple meters for one address or building.

SUSTAINABLE EFFORTS IN THE CITY IS DEPARTMENT – JACKY GRESCHNER

- The City's IS&T Department joined an EPA funded State Electronic Challenge in 2011 with 5 partners in Wisconsin. The department uses the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) in implementing the challenge. The department has partnered with Focus on Energy to earn rebates by implementing a program that hibernates computers after 70 minutes of inactivity and shuts them off after 5:30 p.m. The department is utilizing online auctioning, repurposing and using a licensed recycler (Dynamic in Holmen) to further sustainability. To cut down on paper waste projectors have been installed in conference rooms to cut down the need

for printed material. A new fax server is used to remove the need for paper faxes and duplex (double sided) printing is using paper more efficiently. Installation of better servers has cut down the quantity of servers needed. Currently the City has 65 Gold rated computers, 77 monitors rated Gold and 34 Gold rated laptops. Over the past 3 years, the City has saved \$18,725.10 in energy costs, removed 225.2 tons of CO2, 46.43 acres of trees saved, and 37.41 cars removed from the road. The IS&T Department plans to convert copiers to Gold Standard, continue implementing duplex printing, adding a new document managing system (get rid of paper files) as well as converting the servers using Energy STEP with the help of Schneider Electric. In response to a question, currently the IS&T Department is not looking at telecommuting as an option.

NEMWI PROSPECTUS – SULLIVAN

- Sara Sullivan asked the Commission if the Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative is something the Commission would want to look into. The aforementioned project is part of the Northeast-Midwest Institute and seeks to increase river protection, restoration and management in Washington DC. Sullivan mentioned that, in particular, floodplain issues are of concern to La Crosse and she is considering bringing the issue to the Neighborhood Revitalization Commission she serves on. The Commission recommended Sullivan look into the issue further.

LIVING GREEN EXPO

- Wayne Olson was absent and the topic is to be on next month's agenda.

EARTH DAY – APRIL 22ND

- Chair Pedretti reminded the Commission of Earth Day on Sunday, April 22nd. More information can be found on the Sustainable La Crosse website.

MARSH CLEAN-UP – APRIL 21ST

- The event is still looking for volunteers. Material that is collected will be weighed in two separate dumpsters; one for solid waste and one for recycling to see how much that is tossed can be recycled. A meeting at the Eco Park is scheduled for 9 a.m. that Saturday.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- La Crosse Tribune articles.
- Dale Hexom, Director of Public Works for the City of La Crosse – Sustainability Presentation
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MOTION by Sullivan/Hampson to adjourn. **The motion carried unanimously.** Chair Pedretti adjourned the meeting at 5:26 p.m.