

## **SUSTAINABLE LA CROSSE COMMISSION**

Thursday, June 28, 2012

City Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room,  
400 La Crosse St.

4:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Marilyn Pedretti, Rob Tyser, Sharon Hampson, Wayne Olson, Dan Bagniewski, Diane Wulf

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Dick Swantz, R. Jean Salk

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sara Sullivan

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Nick Nichols, Amy Peterson, Jacob LaRow, Art Fahey, Krivonogora Lyubar, Ivanov Sergey, Erica Black, Hbormasova Hina, Yulia Veilleyghey, Bolgova Valentina, Ereming Evsenia, Sergy Ibraginov, Carolyn Jenkins, Glen Jenkins, Michael Quirk, Deborah Lutzen.

### **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None Requested.

### **APPROVE MINUTES OF May 24, 2012**

**MOTION** by Hampson/Bagniewski to approve the minutes of May 24, 2012. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **AGENCY REPORTS/ INFORMATIONAL UPDATES**

- Amy Peterson discussed a recent article in the La Crosse Tribune spotlighting Chair Marilyn Pedretti and her efforts and achievements in the area of sustainability.
- Nick Nichols discussed the efforts of Josh and the local foods program and sustainability.
- Chair Pedretti updated the Commission in that the County Board has adopted the Green Purchasing Resolution.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

- Peterson reviewed a letter submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy by the Mayor's office concerning a grant opportunity in conjunction with the Wisconsin State Energy Office and Wisconsin Clean Cities – Southeast Area in the area of alternative fuel markets. The grant would help with an audit of the City's current vehicle fleet; ascertain the City's current strategies and reduce petroleum consumption and aid in further training and education in accelerating deployment of alternative fuels.

### **RUSSIAN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION DELEGATION PRESENTATION (NICHOLS)**

- Russian delegation – The Russian delegation were going to take a look at our systems, education, Gas to Energy project and the County Landfill. Rob Tyser gave a presentation to them on the Natural Step earlier in the day at the Lunda Center. Deborah Lutzen – World Services of La Crosse said this trip was possible as a result of the Open World Program funded by the U.S. Congress. The Russian delegation in attendance all spoke in turn and had brief comments on their experiences and what they will take away.

### **SUSTAINABLE EFFORTS AT THE LA CROSSE CENTER – ART FAHEY (PETERSON)**

- They are advancing in six areas for sustainability.
- 1. Food and Beverage Department. They are using more paper based products that are more easily recycled as well as plastic cups that are corn based and biodegradable.
- 2. Equipment – Electric powered genie lifts and propane propelled forklifts
- 3. All paper products are purchased through the MSC (sustainable products)
- 4. Ice melt used on sidewalks is more environmentally friendly than standard rock salt mix used on roads.
- 5. Conversions to more inefficient lighting – Incandescent to fluorescent and upgrading existing fluorescent to more efficient varieties.
- 6. Upgrade to the HVAC system – This put all the controls into one location and made it digitally controlled and more efficient. Programmable features in the system allow heating and cooling based on occupancy to prevent unnecessary energy waste when the building is unoccupied.
- Rob Tyser expressed the desire of the Commission to help “sell” expensive projects. A recommendation from the Commission might help give momentum to projects that might otherwise fall through based on cost.

#### **CITY’S REFUSE AND RECYCLING ORDINANCE CONCERNING SCAVENGING – PETERSON**

- Sharon Hampson was concerned about how the new Ordinance might affect the ability to pick up discarded items on the curb as this is a great way for the community to recycle items. Dale Hexom was unavailable to make the meeting and Dick Swantz was absent and both were instrumental in crafting the new ordinance. The Commission would like this issue to be explored further when Swantz is present for discussion.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY TRACKING SYSTEM – NICHOLS**

- “Facility Dude” – Rob Tyser indicated that the company would track energy use for gas and electric meters. However an employee has to enter it manually monthly and as data compiles the company will track it over time. As for cost, the first year is free (sponsored by Johnson Controls) and \$100 per meter thereafter. The Commission would be interested in seeing how this compares to the EPA’s Portfolio Manager.

#### **PROPOSED GOALS SHEET RESPONSES, INPUT AND POSSIBLE ACTION - NICHOLS**

- The county is still working on internal and external awareness and they are addressing this through articles and newsletters. They are working on a learning center for staff set up by Karl Green of the UW- Extension Office. Nichols indicated the goals would be ready to be acted on at the next meeting. Peterson thought bringing the education to the City would be beneficial.

#### **TRIBUNE ARTICLES OLSON/SULLIVAN/NICHOLS**

- No progress as of yet.

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Continued discussion on the City’s new Refuse and Recycling Ordinance.
- Action on Proposed Goals Sheet.

#### **NEXT MEETING: JULY 26, 2012**

#### **ADJOURN**

- **Motion** by Hampson/Tyser to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** Chair Pedretti adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.