

SUSTAINABLE LA CROSSE COMMISSION

Thursday, November 29, 2012
City Hall, West Conference Room,
400 La Crosse St.
4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marilyn Pedretti, R. Jean Salk, Sara Sullivan, Dick Swantz, Diane Wulf, Rob Tyser, Wayne Olson, Dan Bagniewski, Sharon Hampson

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Ryan Westpfahl, Karl Green, Erica Black, Nick Nichols, Amy Peterson

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None received.

AGENDA

Pedretti requested that items number 5 and 6 be moved ahead of number 4 on the agenda. No opposition.

APPROVE MINUTES OF October 25, 2012

MOTION by Wulf/Sullivan to approve the minutes of October 25, 2012. **Motion carried unanimously.**

SUSTAINABLE EFFORTS IN THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT – STEVE CAROLYN (PETERSON)

- Mr. Carolyn discussed green projects at the Green Island Ice Arena, Copeland Park East, Black River Beach Neighborhood Center, Emerson School/Crowley Park, Granddad Bluff, and overall park maintenance procedures.
- The Park & Recreation Action Plan includes the following: ongoing solar; reduced fleet; landscaping policy; native perennial project; maintenance policy in golf course and parks; pilot chlorine free and solar pool; plant more trees; refurbish all neighborhood parks.

EMERALD ASH BORER – STEVE CAROLYN

- There are 20,000 ash trees in the City. Public hearings have already been held. The plan is to remove trees in public areas with Barron Island being first.
- Phase 1 is to remove trees from 5 parks: Pettibone, boat club, campground, golf course, Copeland Park. Phase 2 is the boulevard trees.
- Three grants are in the works right now to assist with the cost.
- Karl Green offered the homeowner information is available on the Extension website.
- Peterson noted the potential stormwater and cooling impacts we will see losing so many trees in a short period.

STAFF REPORTS / INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

- **Rotary Lights (Nichols)** – Nichols informed that unwanted Holiday lights can be recycled at Rotary lights.

- **County landfill community forest – sustainable timber harvesting (Nichols)** – Set to take place in 2013.
- **Gundersen Lutheran & Landfill (Nichols)** – Their presentation has been accepted at the LMOP conference in Baltimore in January.

BASELINE GROUP UPDATES

- No updates at this time.

VITERBO SUSTAINABILITY UPDATES (Salk)

- Recently the campus held a sustainability day focused around the signing of the Catholic Climate Covenant or St. Francis Pledge.

SUSTAINABLE WEEK AT CITY AND COUNTY BUILDINGS

- Ideas included TV's that roll statistics, an earth day display at the mall, County employee newsletter, newspaper column on sustainability (in progress), TV5 interviews with Department heads.
- County can tie directly to new education/training goals.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE PROCESS – SOLID WASTE (NICHOLS)

- Solid waste wants to update their part of the plan
- How do we update the overall plan as a living document?
 - Ask each Department for an update?
 - Work through indicators for focus areas where we need to improve?
- County – at 5 main Board levels; have those Directors report
- Create a short document directing what areas to focus on
- Green Teams?
- There is a gap between vision, action and implementation

JANUARY MEETING DATE

- The next meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2012.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Styrofoam
- Legacy Communities – DNR
- Used shingle ban from landfill
- No idling policy

NEXT MEETING: January 24, 2013

ADJOURN

- **Motion** by Wulf/Hampson. **Motion carried unanimously.** Chair Pedretti adjourned the meeting at 5:36 p.m.