

CITY OF WAUSAU SUSTAINABILITY, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Time and Date: The Sustainability, Energy and Environment Committee met on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room of Wausau City Hall.

Members Present: Patrick Peckham, Mary Kluz, Benjamin Lee, Paul Zouski, Ralph Fischer

Others Present: Mayor Mielke

In compliance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and transmitted to the *Wausau Daily Herald* in the proper manner.

Welcome and introductions

Peckham called the meeting to order in absence of the chairperson at 4:05 p.m. Everyone present introduced themselves.

Approval of the minutes of October 30, 2019 meeting

Motion by Kluz/Lee to approve the minutes of the October 30, 2019 meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and possible action on sustainability recognition program

Lee overviewed his research on sustainability recognition programs in Wood County and Portage County. These programs went further than a recognition in front of City Council. Lee said he would reach out to the people that coordinate the recognition programs he researched and send the additional information to Sippel to update the committee at a future meeting. Sippel asked if the programs in these two counties were organized by the County or a different group, and Lee said they were organized by a different organization than the County. The committee discussed parameters of the recognition program that would need to be decided, including the purpose of the recognition, geographical limitations of recognition, categories for recognition, the eligibility for recognition, and the committee's relationship to other groups that may have similar goals or programs. The committee discussed the breadth of the recognition program and how to recognize businesses and people that are already making efforts because it is the right thing to do, and including actions like commuting by bike to work. Sippel said the SEEC could help the City Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee in organizing an event for bike to work week or bike to work day. Sippel said he would draft some language for a future meeting based on the discussions that have occurred at committee meetings to help get some of these questions on paper and fleshed out.

Discussion and possible action on Green Tier Legacy Community Charter

Sippel updated the committee on some of the information learned since the Green Tier program was last discussed. Sippel noted he did not see any issues proceeding with the Green Tier program. The next step would be a recommendation from this committee that the Green Tier program is a suitable framework for this committee to work within and a resolution from the Common Council to join the charter. Lee asked who the City coordinate would be for the program and if there is a staff person that is comfortable taking on that responsibility, and Sippel responded that he would be the City staff person that would be responsible for the charter. Sippel asked if the committee wanted to join the water resources or the sustainable practices tract. The committee discussed and decided that the sustainable practices tract seemed to be most in-line with the goals of the committee at this point.

Motion by Peckham/Fischer to direct Sippel to draft a resolution for approval by the committee to join the Green Tier Legacy Community Charter for sustainability practices. Approved unanimously.

Kluz asked if summary information about Green Tier could be included to help the council make the decision. Sippel said he would include a staff report with the DNR fact sheets that summarize the program.

Discussion on potential trip to Church Mutual Insurance in Merrill

The committee discussed the logistics of visiting Church Mutual in Merrill to tour some of the alternative energy installations in their building. Sippel will send out a Doodle poll for potential dates for this trip.

Discuss potential visit and discussion with Midwest Renewable Energy Association

The committee discussed inviting Nick Hylla from MREA to a future meeting to discuss solar energy in Central Wisconsin. Peckham said it would be a good idea to also invite leaders and residents from surrounding communities to this discussion. The committee discussed the logistics of setting up a discussion with MREA, and planned to try for December 19 at 4:00 p.m.

Updates on previous items

Sippel updated the committee on the Bluestem development process.

Future items for consideration

Sippel noted that the Green Tier Legacy Community resolution and sustainability recognition program would be on the next agenda.

Future meeting date

The next meeting will be December 19 at 4:00 pm, with Nick Hylla coming to speak about solar energy in Central Wisconsin.

Adjourn

Motion by Kluz/Fischer to adjourn the meeting at 5:14 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.