SUSTAINABLE LA CROSSE COMMISSION  
Thursday, September 20, 2018  
Administrative Center, Conf Room 2100, 212 6th St. No  
La Crosse, WI  
4:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Giese (Acting Chair), Cindy Shireman; Doug Hauser, Carolyn Jenkins, Kim Smith, Cathy Van Maren, Dorothy Lenard

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Chair Rick Cornforth, Rick Diermeier, Justice Weaver

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Nick Nichols, Brian Tippets, Maureen Freedland, Kathy Allen, Alice Sorenson

CALL TO ORDER
Acting Chair Mike Giese called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

APPROVE MINUTES OF AUGUST 16, 2018
MOTION by Smith/Van Maren to approve the minutes of August 16, 2018. Motion carried unanimously with three excused – Cornforth/Diermeier/Weaver.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
Kathy Allen who is a supporter of renewable energy would like to see the City and County set official goals to transition to renewable energy as quickly as possible.

REPORTS/INFORMATIONAL UPDATES:
Nick Nichols:
- Did a presentation at the Climate Change Summit that was held at Riverside Park on Saturday, September 15, 2018. Presented the Indicator's Report and talked about the great work the City and County are doing in accomplishing their goals for energy reduction.
- Construction is done at the Landfill.
- The Community Resiliency Symposium will be held November 7, 2018 and is sponsored by the Western Sustainability Institute.
- The 2018 Inspiring Sustainability Awards will be held Tuesday, September 25, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. This is the carryover from the Coulee Partners for Sustainability Annual Harvest Dinner and Recognition.
- The 2017 State Energy Score Card is put out to rank the states as far as their energy efficiency programs. Minnesota is ranked 9th in the nation. Wisconsin is ranked 24th. There are a lot more things that we can be doing in Wisconsin to make this state more energy efficient.

Cathy Van Maren:
- The Sierra Club will have a program beginning at 7:00 p.m., September 25, 2018 at UW-L, Student Union (3rd Flr), where Anders Olson will go over the Sustainability Indicators Report for the City of La Crosse and other Sierra Club news will be presented.
- On October 16, 2018, 6:30 p.m. at Hochunk Three Rivers House, Sunvest Solar, who has partnered with the Sierra Club to help people put solar on their buildings, will do an informational presentation.
UPDATE ON MADISON SOLAR ASSESSMENT – NICK NICHOLS/NIELS WOLTER
Nick Nichols, Lewis Kuhlman, Sustainability Coordinator for the City of La Crosse, met with Niels Wolter of Madison Solar Consulting. They visited 12 locations around the City and County to do a solar site assessment, including the Waste Water Treatment Plant, La Crosse Center, City Hall, Solid Waste Department, Lakeview, Health & Human Services Building, Law Enforcement Center, to name a few. A draft report has been received from Mr. Wolter. The financial draft should be completed by the end of the week. Once completed, a meeting will be scheduled with the Facilities Department and County Administrator, Steve O’Malley, on what the next steps should be. This assessment will give an idea of how much energy could be offset, which usually is estimated at 15% with systems that can be put up on the buildings identified. Also provided from the report will be an estimate of the amount of energy that it can create in the amount of money that can be saved in the course of time. One of the funding mechanisms that can be used is Focus on Energy which has a funding program that has just been launched and there are monies available to help with the portion of programs and projects that deal with solar. There might be an opportunity to get third party funding also.

APPROVAL TO INCREASE CHARGE FOR MATTRESS RECYCLING – NICK NICHOLS
Brian Tippets, co-owner of Seven Rivers Recycling, was in attendance and spoke again about the mattress recycling program. Lewis Kuhlman from the City of La Crosse drafted a letter for the committee to take action on supporting a change to the fee structure for the disposal of mattresses to encourage more recycling. The Solid Waste Department revised the letter and copies were distributed to all committee members. Discussion ensued.
MOTION by Lenard/Smith to approve the revised letter and have Chair Cornforth forward the request for fee changes to the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee for action.
Motion carried unanimously with three excused – Cornforth/Diermeier/Weaver.

DISCUSSION ON SUB-COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS
There was committee discussion on the sub-committees that were formed last year which were:
- Waste Management
- Transportation
Supervisor Giese asked for consensus on how to proceed this year and consider establishing smaller work teams in order to get more work done in the recommended areas. Discussion ensued and along with waste management and transportation, other focus areas suggested were:
- Energy Issues and Focus Meetings
- Improving Mass Transportation in the City of Onalaska.
- Ready for 100 Initiative
- Carbon Neutrality
There was committee consensus that smaller work teams is the best way to proceed with a common goal for the Sustainable La Crosse Commission. Members can join in with where their interests lie.

TRANSPORTATION WORK GROUP MEETING DISCUSSION
No direct discussion.
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SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING MEETING DISUSSION  
No direct discussion.

SIERRA CLUB PROGRAM – CATHY VAN MAREN  
Cathy Van Maren stated that she would like the City and County of La Crosse to draft a resolution to become a Ready for 100 Community. Cathy is asking for advice/recommendations on how to proceed with the process. Discussion followed with a recommendation to look further into communities who have done it, how did they do it, how feasible is it in this location, etc. and bring it back to this Commission for action. This item will be placed on the agenda for the October meeting.

MEETING SCHEDULE/NEXT MEETING DATE: Tentatively October 18, 2018, 4:30 p.m.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: None

ADJOURNMENT  
MOTION by Lenard/Hauser to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously with three excused – Cornforth/Diermeier/Weaver.

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Approved October 19, 2018, Alice Sorenson, Recorder