SUSTAINABLE LA CROSSE COMMISSION
Thursday, January 17, 2019
Administrative Center, Conference Room 1107, 212 6th St. No
La Crosse, WI
4:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Rick Cornforth, Mike Giese, Cindy Shireman, Doug Hauser, Cathy Van Maren, Rick Diermeier, Carolyn Jenkins, Kim Smith

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Justice Weaver

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Nick Nichols, Dorothy Lenard, Lewis Kuhlman, Kathy Allen, Courtney Baker, Maureen Freedland, Patrick Wilson, Alice Sorenson

CALL TO ORDER
Chair Rick Cornforth called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

APPROVE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 20, 2018
MOTION by Giese/Shireman to approve the minutes of December 20, 2018.
Motion carried with 1 excused - Weaver.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

REPORTS/INFORMATIONAL UPDATES:

• SOLAR UPDATE – NICK NICHOLS
  o The Phase II proposal information from Niels Wolter has been passed along to the County Administrator, Steve O’Malley and the Facilities Director, Jim Speropulos. It was determined to place the proposed events on hold until the spring of 2020. Niels sent a link to the most recent Focus on Energy Renewable Energy Grant Proposal. Proposals are due February 19, 2019.
  o The County and City are looking into the Solsmart program. The Midwest Renewal Energy Association is assisting communities across the state on getting the Solsmart designation. The intention is to review zoning and building code standards to streamline the process for people who are interested in installing solar panels.
  o Nick Nichols is working on a project with COWS (Center on Wisconsin Strategy) where he asked them to do a study on what it would take to eliminate the State’s energy deficit. The report should be ready in the next couple of weeks. The preliminary draft of the report indicates that our gross domestic product could increase by $15 billion dollars and could create approximately 149,000 jobs.

• WEBSITE – CATHY VAN MAREN
  Cathy Van Maren and Nick Nichols are working on a non-governmental online sustainability resource and are soliciting the help of UW-La Crosse interns to volunteer assistance for the process. Part of what would be included would be a sustainability calendar which includes an active calendar of events and volunteer opportunities within the community; a sustainability map that would show where all the LEED buildings are as well as where the solar panels are, etc. This site would have a link to the County Website. This process is currently in the preliminary stages.
DISCUSSION ON UPDATING THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR SUSTAINABILITY – NICK NICHOLS

Lewis Kuhlman indicated that in 2018 he requested $50,000 for the City’s portion of the Strategic Plan update to be in the 2019 capital improvement budget. The City has now pushed that back to 2020. Nick Nichols talked to Charlie Handy, County Planner, about updating the County portion of the Strategic Plan. Charlie estimated that it would take 8 months and 73 staff hours. The last Strategic Plan was approved in 2010.

ENERGY COMMITTEE REPORT – DOUG HAUSER

No report provided.

WATER COMMITTEE REPORT – CINTHIA SHIREMAN

- Karl Green brought to the committee’s attention winter salt treatments on permeable pavement and how that is directly flowing into the water system. Mathy will be contacted to see what kind of information they are providing to organizations and places where they install this porous pavement. The committee will also try to find out who has permeable pavement and provide them with best practices for winter treatment of those areas.
- La Crosse River Mapping - Karl Green is working with a student on a mapping project which is looking at all of the La Crosse River in terms of non-source point pollution, where along the river there might be contributors, and what can be done to help mitigate that.
- The committee is creating a list of potential partners/experts with more information on the above subjects.

UPDATE ON 2019 INDICATORS REPORT – NICK NICHOLS

Anders Olson submitted his fee for doing the 2018 Indicators Report in the amount of $7,500. The Solid Waste Department only budgeted $3,000 for the County’s half of the report. An additional $750 has been approved for the County’s half of the Indicators Report. The City is working on getting the additional $750 from their operating budget. Nick Nichols is working on getting funding for designating Energy Star Status for the following County buildings: Law Enforcement Center, Health and Human Services building, the Administrative Center, and Lakeview.

UPDATE ON THE DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR READY FOR 100 – LEWIS KUHLMAN

Lewis Kuhlman recommended that the Energy Subcommittee look at the DRAFT resolution he provided, compare it to other resolutions and add any WHEREAS clauses they see fit. This will be placed on the February agenda.

ACTION TO SET DATES FOR PUBLIC FORUMS ON WATER AND ENERGY

There was discussion about setting dates and times for public education sessions relating to water and energy. It was suggested that they would be held on the same evening as the Sustainable La Crosse Commission meetings, the third Thursday of the month, one hour sessions, beginning in March or April following the meeting.

MEETING SCHEDULE/NEXT MEETING DATE: Tentatively February 21, 2019, 4:30 p.m., Conf Room 1107.
FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:
  - Babcock Public Hearing – Take a position on it as a committee

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Van Maren/Jenkins to adjourn. Motion carried with 1 excused - Weaver.

The meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Approved February 21, 2019, Alice Sorenson, Recorder