



MINUTES
for the
City of Fitchburg
Resource Conservation Commission
July 20, 2015 Meeting

RCC and Staff Members Present: Diane Streck, Chris Jimieson, Tony Hartmann (arrived at 6:40pm), Kia Stearn, Kim Warkentin, Rick Eilertson, Erika Kluetmeier

Others Present: Scott Endl, City of Fitchburg Parks, Recreation & Forestry Director

Absent: Samuel Cooke, excused; Jan Kucher, excused

1. Call to Order

- Chris called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. Appointment of Timekeeper

- Diane Streck was appointed Timekeeper.

3. Public Appearances on Non-Agenda Items

- None

4. Approval of Minutes from June 15, 2015 RCC Meeting

- *Diane moved to approve the Minutes, Kia seconded. Minutes were approved with two changes: 1) Strike third bullet under item 5.d. and 2) include "attendance at a related conference" under item 5.b. Action item #1.*

5. New Business

5.a. Updates to Fitchburg's Park & Open Space Plan

- Scott Endl (Parks, Rec & Forestry Dept.) and Wade Thompson (Planning Dept.) are soliciting input to update Fitchburg's Park & Open Space Plan for 2015-2020. The five-year plan provides direction and guides improvements for park amenities, facilities and programs.
- A focus of this plan will be on active play and providing new attractions like food carts and beer gardens to encourage people to use the parks. Partnerships with private vendors will be evaluated to expand the use of public property. The plan may include a new focus on detention ponds as educational and recreational spaces.
- The 2010-2015 Comprehensive Park, Open Space, and Recreation Plan is available on the City's website at:
<http://wi-fitchburg.civicplus.com/736/Comprehensive-Park-Open-Space-Recreation>.
- An online and print community survey will be distributed shortly to gauge community interest and priorities.

- RCC members recommended incorporating reminders about recycling and information about zero waste into permit applications.
- Tony mentioned a lack of recycling containers at the recent Boys & Girls Club cycling fundraiser and encouraged adding more recycling containers when large events are scheduled.

6.a. MG&E's Charge to Fitchburg for Street Lamps Electricity – LED Lights

- Erika reported that MGE determines unmetered monthly costs based on type of light, wattage/amp, hours of operation, and a flat maintenance fee.
- Holly Powell, Fitchburg Engineering Technician, plans to have an inventory of street lights completed by the end of 2016.
- LED fixtures will be evaluated in preparation for LED conversion on McKee Rd. and Fish Hatchery.
- **Action item:**
 - **Erika will continue to look for incentives and cost savings from bulk purchasing through State Energy Office.**
 - **Erika will evaluate an FOE incentives or other grants for LED fixture testing**

6.b. Focus on Energy – Solar Grants

- Erika and Tony met with Focus on Energy Rep Neil Howard last week. They discussed incentives for solar pv, design assistance for new building projects, street lighting/LED conversion and retro-commissioning projects.
- **Action items:**
 - **Erika will schedule a meeting with the internal solar planning group to review solar models/funding options and discuss next steps.**
 - **Erika will contact Sherrie Gruder with a status update on solar planning.**

6.c. Eco-Municipality Discussion

- Chris summarized a meeting with Sherrie Gruder, Mayor Arnold, Rick & Erika to discuss the creation of an ad hoc Sustainability Task Force, facilitation of community study circles, and training of city staff and elected officials on The Natural Step (TNS) process.
- Mayor Arnold is evaluating funding options to begin the ad hoc committee/task force in 2015.
- **Action items:**
 - **Tony will ask Dan Carpenter about adding a TNS presentation to the August 26th Committee of the Whole agenda.**
 - **Erika will contact Sherrie Gruder to see if she is available to present an overview of The Natural Step process on August 26th.**

6.d. Review/Provide Recommendations for 2016 RCC Operating Budget Requests

- Diane reminded members that RCC does not have its own operating budget. RCC lists its requests so they can be included in the appropriate department and line item in Fitchburg's Operating Budget. For example, the Retrocommissioning

and TNS budget are just reminders that these numbers need to be included somewhere in the 2016 Operating Budget.

- Battery recycling has been very popular. The City does not have a good year-to-date cost estimate because none of the collected batteries have been picked up and weighed for recycling yet.
- TNS Monona is discontinuing the Green Tuesday/Thursday films. Film attendance at all sites dropped dramatically over the past year.
- Chris suggested RCC hold a Green Thursday event quarterly to replace the monthly films and coordinate the topic with library staff.
- Diane mentioned RCC may need to purchase space in Fitchburg Star to ensure RCC articles are printed and suggested 6 articles/year.
- \$7,500 will be added to the chart for the remaining retro-commissioning recommendations.
- **Action item:**
 - **Rick will check on battery recycling weight estimates and update the budget as needed for 2016.**
 - **Diane will obtain an estimate of the cost for space in Fitchburg Star to print 6 RCC articles of 400-500 words.**
 - **Erika will check with Kevin and Cory on the budget process for retro-commissioning items.**

6.e. Retrocommissioning Update

- Samuel Cooke met with Kevin Richmond and Erika on June 23rd and provided clarification on remaining Retrocommissioning Report recommendations. With this additional information, Kevin will be able to implement all of the remaining recommendations.
- Erika reported that FOE funds are available for the Community Center project that will be completed this year.
- **Action item:**
 - **Erika will contact Kevin Richmond to discuss retro-commissioning incentives for 2016.**
 - **Erika will check with Cory/Kevin to evaluate funding options to complete the remaining recommendations.**

6.f. Community Outreach Subcommittee – Boys & Girls Club Summer Event Summer Event

- The RCC Summer Event will be held at the Boys & Girls Club on Thursday, July 30th from 1:00-2:30 p.m. A group of 60 campers, ages 9-13, will participate.
- Chris provided a summary of the program:
 - Session 1: Recycling Overview for entire group of students including landfill video.
 - Students will break into three groups of 20 and rotate through the following breakout sessions:
 - Session 2 – White tornado/waste sort
 - Session 3 – Cotton Bag decorating

- Session 4 – Poster-making to discourage the use of plastic bags and bottles. (Posters will be considered for possible placement in grocery stores to discourage the use of plastic bags).
- Members noted that these same activities can be tailored for school programs and community recycling events.
- **Action items:**
 - **Erika will check with Boys & Girls Club on news media attendance.**
 - **Erika will remind FACTv about event time change.**

7. Council Update

- Pat Marsh will begin work as Fitchburg's new City Administrator on Sept. 1.
- A bike safety course for adults (ages 16 and up) is being offered by Fitchburg Bicycling Advocates through the Rec Dept. on Sat., August 22 at Stoner Prairie Middle School from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. at a cost of \$50.

8. Staff Update

8.a. Solid Waste Update

- Rick provided an update on discussions to set up an anaerobic digester in the Dane County area. He, Jan, and Tony will continue to stay on top of new information on this topic.

8.b. Stormwater Update

- Rick received notice that the Yahara WINS Executive Committee authorized stormwater grants for the Lacy Heights Bioretention Facility (\$10,500) and Schumann Greenway Restoration/McKee Farms Northwest Pond Enlargement (\$15,000). The National Fish & Wildlife Foundation grant was rejected. DNR will announce grant awards in September or October for Lacy Heights project.
- New Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) rainfall depths and distributions requirements took effect in Wisconsin on April 1, 2015. The City started requiring all Erosion Control and Stormwater Management (ECSWM) permit applications submitted since April use the updated rainfall depths and distributions. Rick anticipates updating the ordinance to reflect these changes once the state and county complete their performance standards.

8.c. Sustainability Update

- Erika provided an overview of the MGE Community Conversations process and opportunities to provide input to MGE on their energy portfolio, programs and services that will guide MGE decision-making over the next 10-15 years.
- RCC members can forward any comments to Erika on Rick regarding municipal or community energy issues.

9. Next Meeting

- RCC will meet on Monday, September 21, 2015 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room.

10. Adjournment – 9:05 p.m.