



MINUTES
for the
City of Fitchburg
Resource Conservation Commission
September 21, 2015 Meeting

RCC and Staff Members Present: Diane Streck, Chris Jimieson, Tony Hartmann (arrived at 6:38 p.m.), Kia Stearn (departed at 8:30 p.m.), Kim Warkentin, Rick Eilertson, Erika Kluetmeier

Absent: Jan Kucher, excused; Samuel Cooke, excused

Others Present: Cory Horton, Director of Public Works/City Engineer and Ryan Fralish (through Agenda Item 6b)

1. Call to Order

- Chris called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

2. Appointment of Timekeeper

- Kim Warkentin was appointed Timekeeper.

3. Public Appearances on Non-Agenda Items

- None

4. Approval of Minutes from July 20, 2015 RCC Meeting

- *Diane made a motion to approve the Minutes, Kim seconded the motion. The motion was approved.*

5. New Business

5.a. Resolution R-96-15 – A Resolution to Set the 2016 Solid Waste Collection Rates

- Rick provided background on the staff recommendation for the solid waste collection fee to be \$150/unit for single to four unit residential properties and the brush and holiday tree collection to be \$6/unit for apartments/condominiums.
- Discussion occurred on Contractor Costs, recycling cart fees, Construction and Demolition Reuse/Recycling (CDRR) forfeited deposits (where are those funds going?), and the \$6/unit/year brush and holiday tree collection fee staying constant since ~2011.
- Cory confirmed that the Board of Public Works recommended \$150/unit for single to four unit residential properties and the brush and holiday tree collection to be \$6/unit for apartments/condominiums.

- Cory explained that the targeted reserve fund balance is 25-30% of the total annual Solid Waste budget.
- Diane suggested charging a fee to apartment owners to cover recycling education and outreach activities. Discussion occurred. Rick mentioned that if a mandatory fee was anticipated, this is something that would be important to inform apartment owners of.
- *Diane moved to recommend approval of staff recommendation (for the solid waste collection fee to be \$150/unit for single to four unit residential properties and the brush and holiday tree collection to be \$6/unit for apartments/condominiums), but she would also like staff to consider increasing the brush and holiday tree collection fee and think further about charging apartment complexes for recycling education/activities. Kia seconded the motion. Discussion occurred. The Motion was approved.*
- **Action item: Erika will follow up with Kari Peterson in Finance to confirm what happens to unclaimed CDRR deposits.**

5b. Discussion/Approval of Yard Waste Collection Pilot to Encourage Reusable Bags/Containers

- Rick provided an overview of the options explained in the Staff Update for encouraging use of reusable bags and containers for yard waste collection.
- The Yardwaste Polybags cost roughly \$2/bag. Each resident can receive one free polybag per year and purchase additional bags for \$2 each.
- Oct. 26th is first yard waste collection date.
- Diane encouraged staff to do more education on mulching and composting leaves.
- The City has ~60 polybags on hand.
- *Tony moved to pursue a pilot in a targeted area wherein staff would leave one polybag at households with multiple plastic yardwaste bags at their curb and later see if the residents changed their habits. Diane seconded and offered a friendly amendment to include educational information with the polybag. The Motion with the friendly amendment was approved.*
- **Action items:**
 - **Rick will prepare an article for the October Fitchburg Star with input from Ryan Fralish to encourage residents to mulch leaves.**
 - **Rick will coordinate implementation of the pilot with Pellitteri Waste Systems.**

5c. Introduction to Wisconsin Distributed Resources Collaborative

- Tony provided an overview of WIDRC, a group of utilities formed to educate consumers about efficiency and renewable energy options.
- Grants from membership dues are awarded each December. Grants are \$10,000 maximum, and applications are due in early December with work starting on January 1, 2016.

- Tony proposed applying for a 2016 grant to research funding options for solar PV panels and study community solar farms. Grant could be used to fund additional time for Sustainability Specialist position.
- Rick mentioned that a resolution may need to be presented to Council for referral to apply for a grant.
- *Tony moved to apply for a WIDRC grant; Diane seconded. The Motion was approved.*
- **Action item: Staff will work with Tony on drafting a resolution to apply for the grant.**

6. Unfinished Business

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

- Focus on Energy provides incentives for any fixtures on their approved list whether for testing or permanent installation. There are no special incentives for testing LED street lights. Erika and Holly will continue to evaluate bulk purchasing options through the State Energy Office when final LED fixtures have been selected.

6b. Focus on Energy – Solar Grants

- Please see the Sustainability Update in the packet for information on the Library solar project.

6c. Sustainability Management System Update

- Chris recapped the meeting he had with Mayor Arnold, Rick and Erika to discuss next steps and the makeup of a Sustainability Task Force/Ad-Hoc Committee. Mayor Arnold and Chris will be reaching out to key community members and staff to build support for this initiative.
- Members will be recruited in October with the first meeting anticipated to be in November.
Action items:
- **Tony will request this topic with a presentation by Sherrie Gruder be added to the January 2016 agenda of Committee of the Whole.**
- **Erika will check with Sherrie Gruder to see if she is available for a brief presentation at the Council Meeting on Oct. 13 and at a Green Thursday event.**

6.d Update on 2016 RCC Operating Budget Requests

- Diane asked Jim Ferolie, Fitchburg Star Group Editor, for the cost to buy space for a 500-word article 6 times/year. Jim said a rough estimate for the article in black and white with logo and headline would be about \$250/per article. For 6 articles/year the cost would be ~\$1500.
- Tony asked about readership data. Erika has prepared an online survey and will include a link to that survey in October's *Fitchburg Star* pending internal approval.
- *Diane motioned for Erika to pursue the survey; Tony seconded. The Motion was approved.*

6.e Retrocommissioning Update

- Erika explained that funding for the remaining retrocommissioning recommendations was submitted as a new proposal in the 2016 Operating Budget requests.

6.f Community Outreach Subcommittee

- Members agreed the RCC 2015 Summer Event at Boys & Girls Club (BGC) was very well received. Kids were very respectful and engaged. More time and examples would be helpful for future craft activities as well as more paint if decorating reusable bags.
- Erika mentioned that shortly after RCC's summer event, all BGC locations added recycling bins. The Allied Neighborhood BGC would like to partner with Erika and Rick on recycling education and training for staff.
- Diane mentioned that these 4 sessions used at BGC could be used together or individually at other venues (schools, etc.).
- COS recommends holding Green Thursday events quarterly and suggested Nov, Feb, April, July. Diane pointed out that April is a busy month for RCC with waterway cleanups, etc. and suggested considering May instead.
- COS suggested MaGicEnergy kids program from MGE for November, and the date is tentatively set for Saturday, Nov. 14th at 1:30 p.m.

Action items:

- **Erika will bring posters from BGC to next RCC meeting.**
- **Erika will confirm speaker availability for Saturday, November 14th at 1:30 p.m.**

7. Council Update

- Council recently discussed criteria for TIF awards. Tony highlighted public good as the top criteria as well as both public and private benefits.
- On Tuesday, Council will be voting on Solid Waste rates, referring third-party financing of solar PV panels on the library roof, and submitting the annual DNR Urban Forestry Grant application.

8. Staff Update -Sustainability Update

- Diane applauded the formation of Solar Teams and the prospect of having geothermal in the next fire station.
- Erika commented that the geothermal system in the library has worked out very well and been a good investment.
- Diane encouraged staff to publicize the success of the geothermal system.

9. Next Meeting

- RCC will meet on Monday, November 16, 2015 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room.

10. Adjournment – 9:13 p.m.