



MINUTES
for the
City of Fitchburg
Resource Conservation Commission
June 16, 2014 Meeting

RCC and Staff Members Present: Steve Arnold, Kia Stearn, Diane Streck, Samuel Cooke, Chris Jimieson, Jan Kucher, Tony Hartmann (6:45PM), Rick Eilertson, Kristofer Canto

Others Present: Phil Sveum

1. Call to Order

- Diane called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

2. Appointment of Timekeeper

- Steve was appointed timekeeper.

3. Public Appearances on Non-Agenda Items – none

4. Approval of Minutes from May 19, 2014, RCC Meeting

- *Samuel moved to approve the Minutes from May 19, 2014. Chris seconded. Diane and Samuel suggested minor revisions. The Minutes were approved as amended.*

5. New Business

5.a. Final Plat Request FP-2028-14 by Deborah Hatfield, Developer for Hamm Fam Land, LLC for the Final Plat of Quarry Vista

- Rick provided a brief history regarding stormwater issues relevant to the Quarry Ridge wet-pond and Goose Lake, including a comprehensive study of rainfall events that began in May 2006 and was completed in October 2007. The study was conducted by Montgomery & Associates.
- Diane pointed out future considerations identified in 2007, which include stormwater runoff and flooding issues as a result of increased development.
- Rick has reviewed the current June 9, 2014 stormwater management plan report included in the packet and is comfortable in agreeing with Montgomery & Associates-Resource Solutions statement that the stormwater management calculations show it meets current City of Fitchburg stormwater management requirements.
- Diane invited Phil to explain why Quarry Vista is considering green infrastructure practices for the development.
- Phil explained the main goal was to incorporate more infiltration by retaining water on site. This was primarily done in the public right-of-way terraces, as well as in permeable asphalt. There are a few small detention areas in the plat; however the majority of stormwater management will be incorporated into terrace infiltration areas and rain gardens. Phil explained the project will be phased over several years with the westernmost properties being developed first.
- Jan asked if the net stormwater discharge would be less than it is now. Rick explained that yes, according to the stormwater management plan calculations, the post development runoff rates are less than predevelopment rates for the 1-year, 2-year, 10-year, and 100-year storm design events.

- Diane clarified that the Homeowners' Association is responsible for maintenance of the stormwater facilities and asked whether the Association could at some point remove the private rain gardens and/or terrace infiltration areas. Rick explained that a Stormwater Maintenance Agreement would be developed between the Homeowners' Association and the City to ensure that the Association properly inspects and maintains them. The covenants require the Association contract out regular maintenance to a landscape company.
- Steve said he believes developments such as these are the future of land development. Steve applauded the developer's actions to include these green infrastructure techniques into the development and encouraged efforts to make these types of facilities the norm.
- *Steve moved to recommend approval of the Quarry Vista Plat. Jan seconded. The Motion was approved (6 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstained).*

5.b. 25 x 25 Update

- Diane provided a brief introduction regarding the 25x25 Update. Diane also mentioned that she followed up on the City's retro-commissioning projects but hadn't yet received a detailed response from the Building Inspection Department.
- Steve asked if he should submit an amendment to the 2015 CIP that would include any retro-commissioning projects. Diane said she will follow up with Tony as to how to proceed and copy Steve.
- Steve provided handouts regarding MG&E's proposed utility rate restructuring. According to Renew Wisconsin, such a restructuring would provide a disincentive for energy conservation and renewable projects. The question to the City of Fitchburg is whether or not to register with the PSC as an intervener to further investigate this restructuring. Steve encouraged other members to recommend the City take action. Middleton, Monona, Madison, and Dane County have all registered as interveners. Fitchburg has previously intervened during ATC projects in the past.
- Tony commented that MG&E and other utility companies are considering rate restructuring as solar and other renewable technologies become more popular.

5.c. Update on WECC Proposal

- Kristofer said the Commission on Aging was very supportive of the idea. However, Richard Bloomquist questions WECC's fee.
- Diane asked who is going to submit it with their 2015 Budget requests?
- Steve offered to submit an amendment to the CIP to include the WECC proposal.
- **Action Item:** Kristofer will follow up with Tony Roach regarding whether the WECC program would be a capital or operating item on the budget (add Diane and Steve on email).

6. Unfinished Business

6.a. Continue Discussion on Recycling Batteries

- Taking batteries directly to Battery's Plus would be less expensive than paying for a service. The "Big Green Box" costs roughly \$63/box. If RCC ordered 2 it would cost \$120, with one box holding 43 pounds.
- Steve suggested not putting out the Big Green box, but using another box specifying alkaline batteries only.

6.b. Continue Discussing 2015 RCC Operating Budget Requests

- Battery recycling would be the only additional item on the budget if approved.

- *Steve moved that RCC recommend to public works that \$120 for battery recycling be included in addition to the items in last year's budget request. Tony seconded. Motion approved.*

6.c. Summer Green Thursday Event – Bat Houses

- Chris Jimieson gave an update on the Summer Green Thursday event which will focus on Bats and Bat Houses. The event will be held July 24th in McKee Farms Park - start time yet to be determined. Heather Kaarakka, WDNR, will speak on the importance of bats. One bat house will be already completed and given away and another will be constructed during the workshop.
- Steve brought his bat house and briefly described the construction/design. Steve contributed his bat house to the City to be mounted at Byrne Pond.
- Diane suggested to a start time at 5:30PM.
- Steve suggested having some built partially and completing others throughout the workshop.
- Members discussed having name tags with the new logo for outreach events.
- **Action items:**
 - Kristofer will research multi-chamber bat houses and provide Sharon with plans.
 - Rick/Kristofer will look into getting name tags made for future events.

6.d. Stream Sampling Update

- Tony provided an update on the stream sampling monitoring

7. Council Update

- Diane gave an update on her recent meeting with Ahna Bizjak (Interim Director of Public Works), Tony Roach (City Administrator) and Richard Bloomquist (Council President). Richard plans to propose redefining responsibilities for Commissions, including possibly removing stormwater from RCC's purview and adding it to Board of Public Works. Diane mentioned the environmental aspect of stormwater which is RCC's focus and suggested if stormwater moves to BPW, having a member of RCC (& TTC) serve on the Board of Public Works to retain the environmental aspect.
- In response to Samuel's question, Rick explained that most of the stormwater issues are handled at the staff level and that he rarely attends Board of Public Works meetings.
- Samuel explained that the expertise of the RCC should not be taken for granted and that members should stand behind their knowledge in support of staff and policy recommendations to council.
- Steve read RCC's responsibilities as codified in existing ordinances and said he would personally stand behind RCC's role in promoting sustainability efforts, specifically stormwater.

8. Staff Update

8.a Solid Waste Update

- Solid Waste Collection RFP just went out with proposals due back by July 9th. The only changes made were page numbers.
- Jan asked whether apartments and condos will be allowed into the contract. Rick answered that as long as they use a cart system and either place carts in the public street right-of-way or sign an indemnification agreement for collection on private streets/alleys that the City would allow those properties into the contract.
- Dane County will be closing all compost facilities. Rick explained that Dane County rates increased significantly, and consequently municipalities decided to go elsewhere.

8.b. Stormwater Update

- Rick mentioned there was quite a bit of stormwater damage between 9am-10am on June 2nd. Rick requested feedback on whether to create a system to alert people during and following storm events.
- Text and e-mail alert options are now available with the new website. Steve suggested that the City develop a text alert for storm event notifications.

8.c. Sustainability Update – No Discussion

9. Announcements

9.a. Next Meeting – August 20, 2014 at 6:30 pm in the Meeting Room

10. Adjournment – 9:00pm