



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

RCC and Staff Members Present: Kia Stearn, Diane Streck, Chris Jimieson, Jan Kucher, Tony Hartmann, Samuel Cooke, Rick Eilertson, Erika Kluetmeier

Others Present: DPW/City Engineer Cory Horton and Dane County Clean Sweep Hazardous Waste Coordinator Dave Radisewitz

Absent: Steve Arnold, excused

1. Call to Order

- Diane called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm when a quorum of commissioners was reached.

2. Appointment of Timekeeper

- Samuel Cooke was appointed Timekeeper.

3. Public Appearances on Non-Agenda Items

- Cory Horton, Fitchburg Director of Public Works/City Engineer

4. Approval of Minutes from November 17, 2014, RCC Meeting

- *Chris moved to approve the minutes, Kia seconded. The minutes were approved.*

5. New Business

5.a. Discuss 2015 Clean Sweep Grant Acceptance and Clean & Green Event

- Dave Radisewitz provided an overview of the process for working with Dane County on a local Clean Sweep collection event.
 - Residents will need to pay \$10 fee for the service, but they will have the convenience of dropping off materials closer to home.
 - One volunteer is typically needed to count cars and direct traffic.
 - The quoted price does not include collection of latex paint. If latex paint is collected, 3-4 volunteers are ideal since a separate staging area is needed. As an alternative, Dane County would accept a voucher indicating proof of payment of the \$10 fee at the Fitchburg event if residents wanted to drop off Latex paint at the County site at no additional fee.
- Cory suggested options that are less staff intensive; e.g., full or partial reimbursement to Fitchburg residents who drop off materials at the Dane County Clean Sweep site, or an arrangement where Dane County bills Fitchburg directly for drop-offs by residents. Rick mentioned he thought a 2015 Budget amendment would be necessary for either arrangement.
- RCC members discussed pros and cons of the event. Holding an event in Fitchburg could raise awareness of the proper disposal of hazardous waste and decrease illegal dumping.

- The original idea was to include a local Clean Sweep event with a city-wide Clean & Green event, promoting environmentally-friendly disposal of many household items, including electronics, eye glasses, batteries and sensitive documents (paper shredding).
- Diane explained that the grant funds awarded would only cover one event and suggested that RCC members voting for a local Clean Sweep be prepared to help staff the Clean & Green event to offset cost of staff time. Fitchburg's grant cost-share is roughly \$1,250 and volunteer time can be count toward the cost-share requirement.
- **Tony motioned to accept the grant for one event; Chris seconded. Motion passed.**

5.b. Recap of "1 Thing" meeting with Todd Kunze, Entercom Communications

- Rick and Diane provided a brief summary of the Jan. 5th meeting with Entercom Communications, which owns three radio stations in the South Central Wisconsin region. They are recruiting 1-2 sponsors to fund green community service events and associated education on their airwaves and via e-mail/social media over a seven-month period in 2015. Fitchburg could support the effort through promotion, providing ideas (e.g., idling reduction behavior change) or service project opportunities. Fitchburg has asked to participate in the post-project roundtable.

5.c. Discuss goals for February's strategic planning meeting

- Sherrie Gruder, UWEX Sustainable Design Specialist and Fitchburg resident, is confirmed to facilitate a discussion on The Natural Step planning process at RCC's February meeting.
- Meeting objectives would be to learn about The Natural Step process, recent case studies, how it's been a benefit and how to tailor it for Fitchburg.
- Erika distributed flash drives containing a video produced from a 2007 City of Madison meeting for RCC members to watch before the February meeting. The first segment on employee transportation options is 13 minutes long and a very thorough example of The Natural Step process.
- **Action items:**
 - **Diane and Erika will discuss objectives with Sherrie before the February meeting.**
 - **RCC members will view Natural Step video before the February meeting**

6. Unfinished Business

6.a. Finalize 2015 RCC Calendar and Workplan

- Diane asked if there were any additional changes to the updated calendar.
- **Action item:** Diane will arrange to distribute copies of the 2014 Annual Report and 2015 Calendar and Workplan to the Council.

6.b. 2015 Fitchburg Star Article(s)

- Authors need to send final versions of *Fitchburg Star* articles to Diane no later than the first Wednesday of each month.
- Jan's article on road salt reduction is on the docket for February. Since this article is time-sensitive, ideally it would be sent to the Star as part of the page Fitchburg purchases. To be included in the City's purchased page in the Star, the article should be to Erika and Rick by 1/28.
 - Cory recommended including the following messages based on frequent questions he receives: 1) the efficacy of salt in cold temps, so people know the reason salt is not applied on colder days; 2) the need to slow down based on

road conditions; 3) the environmental impacts of salt/chlorides; and 4) efforts Fitchburg is making to reduce road salt (pre-treating, pre-wetting, organics).

- **Action items:**

- **Erika will check with Lisa Sanford to see if there is space in the Fitchburg one-page ad and report back to Cory and Jan.**
- **Tony will send updated battery recycling article to Diane**

6.c. Green Thursdays - Chris

i. February 5th Green Thursday event – Urban Gardening

- The COS last met on Dec. 17th to discuss two green Thursday events. The Feb. 5th urban and community gardening awareness event will feature Shelly Strom from Community GroundWorks/Troy Gardens and Amanda Hall from Fitchburg Fields. Other invitations have been extended to Growing Power and school garden organizers.
- The Feb. 5th program will cover the benefits of urban and community gardening and local organic food source.
- Diane encouraged Chris to let RCC members know if COS needs help with this event.
- **Action items:**
 - **COS will meet next week to finalize the focus of this event and start promotion.**
 - **Erika will check with Wade Thompson to see if he has a map of community gardens in Fitchburg.**
 - **Erika will check with FACTv about recording the gardening event.**

ii. Continue planning April 9th Green Complete Streets event

- Bernie Lenz, from City of La Crosse, is the confirmed speaker for the event. Additional marketing is planned for the Madison Area Sustainability Network and other municipal and professional staff in addition to Fitchburg residents.
- Samuel mentioned inviting the East Fitchburg Neighborhood Association since timing of Lacy Rd. project may allow for incorporating some elements of Complete Streets into its design.
- **Action items: COS will coordinate and market the event**

6.d. Discuss next steps for Business Sustainability Pledge – Erika, Chris

- Erika and Rick met with Joyce Frey and Mike Zimmerman from the Economic Development Department to get input on the Business Sustainability Pledge. Erika will meet with Monona and Fitchburg Chambers of Commerce and research models from other communities to get ideas on structuring the Pledge.
- **Action item: Erika will meet with Chris and Diane in late April to evaluate next steps.**

6.e. Update on Municipal Construction Guidelines – Samuel

- Samuel and Diane briefly recapped the history of this project. Samuel mentioned the draft Municipal Construction Guidelines are based on LEED 2009 version. He explained that LEED version 4 is now available and will be required effective October 2016.
- The goal is to have Guidelines incorporated into Fitchburg municipal construction – new and remodeled buildings.
- Samuel explained that certified wood is going to be changed to a preference to encourage use but provide flexibility depending on the building's design.
- **Action item: Diane and Samuel will meet with Cory to discuss next steps.**

7. Council Update

- Diane provided an update on the upcoming Alder elections– three alders, including RCC Council Representative Steve Arnold, are not running for re-election, and RCC member Tony Hartmann is running for Alder.

8. Staff Update

8.a Solid Waste Update

- Rick provided updates on: 1) Purple Cow contract; 2) Updated signage at the Recycling Drop Off Site; 3) Combined recycling bin in the City Hall Lobby; and 4) Agreement with Pellitteri to pick up excess recyclables in labeled, reusable containers to reduce use of plastic bags.

8.b. Stormwater Update –

- Rick provided updates on 2015 stormwater facility improvement projects. He explained the grant application to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for native vegetation and habitat improvement at McKee Farms Park's Northwest Pond and asked for RCC's support.
- **Tony motioned to support the NFWF grant; Sam seconded the motion. Motion to support the NFWF grant passed.**
- Rick is working with a UW class on a stormwater design project to evaluate new designs that will meet DNR permit requirements. He is also evaluating potential for DNR nonpoint grants.

8.c. Sustainability Update –

- Rick provided an update on the Green Tier Legacy Community 2014 Annual Report and asked members to email comments to Erika and him.
- Erika provided updates on a project to partner with Dunn's Marsh Neighborhood Council and UW Community Environmental Scholars Program to engage residents in the neighborhood association and in the protection of Dunn's Marsh.
- Erika is also working with Cory Horton and Kevin Richmond, Facilities Supervisor, to reduce use of space heaters among City Hall employees.

9. Announcements

- Diane explained that Steve Arnold has two donated bat houses he's been working since July to have erected in city parks. He is looking for a volunteer to shepherd the rest of the project, ideally completed before April and the arrival of migratory bats.
- **Cory said he will check with Jöhren Frydenlund, Parks/Forestry Maintenance Supervisor, to confirm the status of the installation.**
- Diane also mentioned that Steve Arnold would like to discuss, at a future meeting, the possibility of the city providing barrels of sand for residents' use to reduce salt use.

9.c. Next Meeting

- Monday, February 16, 2015 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. in The Meeting Room.

10. Adjournment – 9:07 pm