



CITY OF WAUWATOSA

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

12/3/2025

6:30 PM

Online meeting

REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

ROLL CALL

Name	Role	Present	Excused
Mike Arney	Member	X	
Seth Flanders	Member	X	
Heather Deaton	Secretary	X	
Alder Melissa Dolan	Common Council Liaison		X
Zoe Hastert	Vice Chair		X
John Horky	Member	X	
Jill McClellan	Member	X	
Steve Ostrenga	Member	X	
Katherine Riebe	Member		X
Ian Schmitt-Ernst	Member	X	
Rob Zimmerman	Chair	X	
Guests:			
Megan Conway	Wauwatosa Sustainability Manager	X	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 5, 2025 MEETING

Motion to approve by Mr. Horky; seconded by Mr. Arney. Approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Announcements and upcoming activities/events

- Mr. Horky shares that there is a feedback gathering meeting on Thursday, Dec 11 by Ergens for the Research Park master plan. The plan is LEED certified already.
- Committee members shared personal sustainability efforts:
 - Ms. Deaton is getting a heat pump air conditioning unit installed this week.
 - Ms. Conway is getting solar panels this week.
 - Mr. Arney had basement insulation installed that week through Green Homeowner United.
 - Mr. Schmitt-Ernst ordered his Focus on Energy free energy efficiency kit.

- B. Guest Speaker: Andi Sciacca, FeedMKE. Topic: Helping restaurants reduce food waste
 - Ms. Sciacca had to cancel due to uncertainty on future funding of the program.
- C. Joint Housing Coalition update
 - Zoning:
 - Considering how aggressive we want to advocate for a resolution to direct the Development Dept. to begin a process of zoning redistricting, to align with the Comp Plan.
 - This is complex and may face local political headwinds.
 - At the State-level, there are a couple of bi-partisan bills around affordable housing - one of which would allow municipalities to more easily update zoning districts, to implement a Comprehensive Plan.
 - Advocating for the rezoning of school / church properties to allow for more dense housing uses.
 - This may be lower-hanging fruit, and have a greater near-future impact on increasing new affordable housing.
 - Staying close to City Administrator Jim Archambo and Development Director Mark Hammond to vet either or both of the above ideas.
 - Considering alternative ideas to test with City leaders.
 - Goals:
 - Discussing the JHC's broader goals at our next meeting (December 9 @ 1pm)
- D. City Sustainability Manager update
 1. Updates (Nov 2025)
 - Recycling ordinance updates – DNR updates, resource updates, code updates, working with Waste Management on the updates.
 - Sustainability outreach updates
 - MRMC (meeting + tour), developers
 - PSC individual metering rule update
 - Geothermal district idea, Ann Arbor
 - MKE sustainability network
 - Near-term sustainability staff goals
 - Key messages and project examples for City sustainability website
 - Working document and overview will be on the WSC drive for committee reference.
 - Wauwatosa sustainability data and reporting – worked with Mr. Flanders and Mr. Arney on this.
 2. Short-Term Priorities (December 2025)
 - Potential community composting grant opportunity with Compost Crusaders and looking for opportunities.
 - Wetland restoration – Firefly Grove Park
 - Funding from MMSD and the forest service already secured with only a \$20K gap to fill, public engagement needed
 - Mr. Arney shared that Ms. Reibe may be interested in engaging in this. Mr. Horky offered to introduce Ms. Conway to the exec director of Mequon Nature Preserve
 - Continued sustainability outreach
 - Continue public fleet electrification planning analysis
 - Potential funding mechanism
 3. Requests for Committee Support
 - Input on public engagement and messaging for potential wetland restoration
 - Input on how staff can support WSC goals

- E. Outreach recap, plans for upcoming months
 - 1. Kids movie, January 2026 – Mr. Zimmerman will continue to reach out to Ms. Hastert for an update.
 - 2. Calendar for 2026 – Ms. Deaton will start a draft of a list of opportunities for tabling, engaging and tentative events. Document will be on the shard drive and the committee members will add any ideas to it – this will be the ‘menu’ of places/spaces the committee can decide where to engage. Committee will have a focused message and materials for 2026 and will discern where time is best spent on engagement.
 - 3. Ms. McClellan suggested hosting a trivia night as part of an existing trivia night held in Wauwatosa as a promotion event about the sustainability efforts of the City. She will reach out to the Quizmaster too see the possibilities.
- F. Wauwatosa School District updates
 - 1. Mr. Ostrenga attended the school board finance committee meeting where the E2S2 presented findings and updates. Their presentation focused on the explanation of solar re: operational and structural and electricity movement for a fundamental understanding and initial exploration of options. He felt the meeting was outstanding. Ms. Deaton will take Mr. Ostrenga’s suggestion to take to the board to pass a resolution to solidify support to find financing and move forward.
 - 2. Ms. McClellan is trying to coordinate an audit of waste and recycling at all the schools and gain momentum for progress. She is working with the Tosa East Environmental Club advisor as a start.
- G. WSC leadership positions in 2026
 - 1. The leadership line up to be voted on in January 2026 is: Mr. Zimmerman as chair, Mr. Schmitt-Ernst as vice chair and Ms. Deaton as secretary.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM.