



CITY OF WAUWATOSA

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

11/5/2025

6:30 PM

Virtual meeting

REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by Mr. Zimmerman

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 OCTOBER 1, 2025 MEETING

Motion to approve by Mr. Flanders; seconded by Mr. Ostrenga. Approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Announcements and upcoming activities/events--

- Ms. Riebe – Andi Sciacca from the ECO Milwaukee and FEED MKE program has offered to zoom with us to discuss working with restaurants about food waste.
- Mr. Schmitt-Ernst – Forward Together Wisconsin fall convening is tomorrow.
- Ms. Deaton shared that Fondy is giving \$20 of tokens to SNAP cardholders to fill in for the lack of food assistance in the government shutdown
- Ms. Riebe – SNAP at Milwaukee Urban Ag – VGI cannot absorb food scraps from Tosa
- Mr. Arney – CCL is having bi-annual conference virtual on Saturday noon to 4:00. <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/climate-change-conferences/fall/>
- Mr. Ostrenga asked about Wisconsin Conservation Voters annual meeting – it is held in May each year.

- Ms. Riebe – lobby day for Sustain Rural Wisconsin to lobby against CAFOs and rural communities' right to make laws about what to have in their communities
- Mr. Zimmerman – Australia legislation to make noon to 3:00 electricity be free due to robust solar installations.

B. City Sustainability Manager update— Ms. Conway went through highlights of her report

- Near Term Sustainability Goals:
 - i. Five areas of focus have been identified from feedback from WSC and city leadership and staff.
 1. Lead by example by continuing to incorporate and expand sustainability in municipal ops
 2. Reduce waste sent to landfills from Wauwatosa homes and businesses
 3. Reduce single-occupancy vehicle miles traveled in internal combustion engine vehicles
 4. Accelerate commercial and residential building decarb
 5. Protect natural resources and increase climate resiliency.
- Communications plans – Ashlyn is putting together two pieces to drive communications for all committees. Mr. Conway will share this with Mr. Ostrenga and Ms. Deaton as a starting point.
- SEWRPC agreed to provide their data with us to help baseline and track progress across Wauwatosa. Ms. Conway will work with Mr. Arney and Mr. Flanders on this.
 - i. Focus on Energy Portfolio Manager is an option that is public where data can be used more broadly. more broadly. Wauwatosa built their own version some time ago so this should be looked at again.
- Ms. Conway applied for a grant for zero-waste municipal events

C. Aligning WSC and Sustainability Manager Goals –

- Mr. Zimmerman and Ms. Riebe met with Ms. Conway to review goals and ideas on how the committee can support the goals of DPW and WSC.
- Outreach and education
- Advocacy (in housing, etc.)
- Communications
- School district/schools
- NAC/Neighborhood associations
- Mr. Zimmerman and Ms. Deaton will flush out the 2026 WSC goals/project list further before the next meeting.

D. Joint Housing Coalition – Mr. Horky shared an update.

- Building upon the 2045 Tosa Comprehensive Plan's call to expand affordable housing in the City, the JHC supported the recently proposed zoning ordinance updates, and continues to advocate to expand the boundaries of the zoning districts that allow multi-unit housing.
- The Sonesta hotel may be re-purposed into affordable workforce apartments, and the JHC is drafting a letter of support. [Note: The WSC is party to the JHC, and its participating members have signed previous, similar letters of support.]
- During our discussion, there was consensus the WSC consider writing its own separate letters, when appropriate, to amplify support of affordable housing developments and initiatives which also advance sustainability.
- Mr. Horky will begin the practice of sharing draft JHC letters with WSC members.

- The JHC is inviting County Supervisor Shawn Rolland to meet with them. Mr. Rolland recently, successfully advanced a County budget amendment to study the merits of creating a "Revolving Loan Fund," to invest in affordable housing.

E. Outreach recap –

- The movie screening at the library is planned for January (exact date TBD)
- Ms. Deaton will start the list of events and opportunities available for outreach – committee members should send their ideas to her to add to the list. It is acknowledged there may be more opportunities than we have capacity to staff.

F. Wauwatosa School District –

- E2S2 – Ms. Deaton shared that the E2S2 will be presenting an update to the Finance Committee of the WSD later this month. They had a very engaging meeting with a resource from Arch Solar about their detailed proposal.

G. 2026 Committee Governance/WSC Officer Positions –

- WSC will try to use up the 2025 budget before year end and will do a more planful way in 2026.
- Mr. Zimmerman will not seek another term as committee chair. He encouraged anyone interested to reach out to him.
- Ms. Deaton expressed her desire to remain in the Secretary role for 2026.
- Elections will be in January according to committee charter.

H. Special guest – Mr. Arney's cat made several appearances on the zoom to encourage and entertain attendees.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm after a motion by Mr. Schmitt-Ernst, seconded by Ms. Riebe and was approved unanimously.