

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
GreenStep Committee Members
FROM: Bill Waller, City Administrator
DATE: February 5, 2019
RE: Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2019

The La Crescent GreenStep Committee met at 4:30 pm, on Monday, February 4, 2019, in the City Council Chambers at the La Crescent City Hall. Due to extreme weather the GreenStep meeting that was originally scheduled for January 30, 2019 was postponed, and rescheduled to February 4, 2019. The following members were present: Reid Smith, John Lambert, Angie Boettcher, Tyler Benish, Jason Ludwigson, Jim Nissen, Shawn Wetterlin and Bill Waller.

1. It was the consensus of the members present to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2018 GreenStep meeting as presented.
2. Due to an emergency, Chris Meyer the local CERT's representative was not able to attend the meeting. Ms. Meyer will be invited to a future GreenStep meeting to review PACE funding and the Drive Electric corridor.
3. Shawn Wetterlin reviewed the SolSmart application and the conference call that was held on January 28, 2019 regarding SolSmart designation. The City will continue to work on the designation process.
4. The committee was updated on the agenda for the February 11, 2019 City Council meeting. Items on the agenda include a contract for a sustainability coordinators position and a memorandum of understanding for participation in the Regional Blufflands Coalition.
5. Angie Boettcher reviewed the 2018 Tree City USA designation, and informed the Committee that the City is awaiting approval from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.
6. Jim Nissen updated the Committee on the establishment of a natural resources advisory group and the designation process for Bird City USA.
7. The Committee was updated on the 2019 MnDOT Landscape Partnership Project, and reviewed a preliminary site plan for the 2019 project.
8. Tyler Benish provided an update to the Committee on the CERT's seed grant, and the various projects that have been completed as part of the process.
9. Shawn Wetterlin provided an update to the Committee on the City's solar projects at four municipal buildings, and site plans for three of the four sites were distributed and reviewed at the meeting.
10. Reid Smith provided an update to the Committee on the proposed solar thermal project at the aquatic center, and offered an alternative regarding the installation of heat pumps to replace the water heaters at the aquatic center. This will be reviewed with City maintenance staff, and an update will be provided at the next GreenStep meeting.
11. The Committee discussed the City's recycling program, and reviewed a handout that was distributed at the meeting that summarized 2018 recycling and refuse collections. It was agreed that in the future the Committee would tour the XCEL Energy French Island Generating Station, the La Crosse County Landfill, and the Hilltopper Refuse & Recycling center.

12. Jason Ludwigson provided the Committee with an update on the school districts greenteam, and Reid Smith agreed to review and prepare alternatives for the establishment of additional pollinator areas in the community.
13. It was agreed that the next GreenStep meeting would be at 4:30 pm, on Monday, March 18, 2019.
14. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:28 pm.