

Sustainable Marshfield Committee Minutes
July 25, 2006

The meeting of the Sustainable Marshfield Committee was called to order at 3:05 p.m. in the Common Council Chambers, City Hall Plaza, 630 S. Central Ave., Marshfield, WI 54449

Present: Mike Brehm, City Administrator; Keith Strey, Finance Director;; Carl Scott, VuePoint Architecture; Mike Meyers, Mayor; Dan Knoeck, Director of Public Works; Tom Turchi, City Engineer; Amber Miller, Director of Planning and Economic Development; Scott Boson, Boson Company; Chris Meyers, 6th District Alderman; Mike Wolfgram, Marshfield Clinic; Sue Meyer, citizen; Kirk Langfoss, citizen/Marathon Co. CPZ; Joe Pacovsky, Marshfield Utilities; Steven Schulte, citizen/Foxfire Botanical Gardens; Peter Manley, Wood County Extension; Mary Kluz, Marathon County UW Extension; and Martha Wahlstrand, City Administrator's Office.

Absent: Dan Umhoefer, citizen member; Ken Heiman, Weber's Farm Store; Mary Rentmeester, St. Vincent DePaul; David Leding, Marshfield DoorSystems; Ron Dickrell, Wastewater Utility; Marty Anderson, 4th District Alderman; Dan Helwig, Design Unlimited; Steve Fuerlinger, Associated Bank; Sherrie Gruder, UW – Extension.

Others present: Brian Panzer, Street Superintendent; Georgette Frazier, citizen.

Peter Manley led the review of the draft mission statement. He said the purpose of the mission statement is to define what the group is about and the core purpose of the group. Over the next 2 or 3 meetings, the committee can look over the draft mission statement and refine it. Brehm said that the Mission Statement will be forwarded to the Common Council for consideration at a public meeting. Keith Strey said it was important to have a broad based approach with a long term focus. Mike Brehm will e-mail the proposed changes to the committee prior to the next meeting.

Steve Schulte complemented the committee for their work on the Mission Statement.

Mike Brehm introduced the city staff presentations on green practices used by city departments. He distributed the statement of property values and the 2005 energy consumption (electricity, water, sewer and gas) by various city buildings.

Brian Panzer, Street Superintendent, reported on the city's recycling program and compost site.

Amber Miller, Director of Planning and Economic Development, described the sewer service area plan which was developed cooperatively with surrounding governmental units.

Tom Turchi, City Engineer, gave some examples of energy savings developed by the Engineering Division. They included LED lights at intersections which use much less energy than regular traffic lights. The department is recycling concrete and asphalt from street reconstruction projects. By lining sanitary sewers rather than digging up the pavement, the city has saved thousands of dollars.

Turchi also reported on the Groundwater Guardians Rx Take Back program which involved collecting outdated prescriptions for disposal. The program was very successful.

Joe Pacovsky provided information about the Marshfield Electric and Water Utility. They are emphasizing energy efficient appliances and provide rebates to encourage purchase of approved appliances and heating and cooling units. He said that the Utility is purchasing land around its wells to protect the well fields. Water consumption was very high in the past but with increased charges for water and sewer, citizens don't use as much water today.

Mary Kluz reviewed the list of group topics and asked for any edits or additions. Kluz felt the committee has a good foundation to build on. Mike Brehm asked the committee to look at the topics and see what members would be interested in pursuing.

Steve Schulte asked whether the Eco-municipality concept is a political organization. He felt that certain hot button issues such as Smart Growth should not be embraced. Brehm said the term Eco-municipality was first introduced but he doesn't want this to be political.

Peter Manley discussed plans for future meetings. The large group will continue to meet through the summer. In general, a speaker will be found for each meeting, with decision making at each meeting.

The next meeting date was discussed – it is planned for Monday, August 28th from 3 – 5 p.m. in the Common Council Chambers. Subcommittees will be established along with planning for speakers and topics for the next six months. Mike Brehm will send an e-mail to confirm the date.

He appreciates the feedback he has received.

Meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Wahlstrand