



CITY OF
WATERTOWN
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Residents' Advisory Committee
Wednesday, May 1, 2024
Minutes

Attendees

Committee Members: Liz Cremens, Kathryn Madden, Theo Offei, Tom Tracy (not present: Sam Ling)

Administrative

The meeting started at 5:00 pm. The next RAC meeting will be on June 5, 2024. The minutes for the RAC meetings on March 27 and April 3, 2024 were approved.

Discussion

Universal Online Application: Civic Plus completed the beta version of the Universal Application on April 26, 2024. Kathryn to send around links and a PDF of the final forms so that the RAC members can review and test the information. Kathryn to ask City staff about the database and potential for automatic notifications. Liz to ask the City Manager about optional questions. At our next meeting, the RAC should discuss further the following questions: resume as optional; requirement for telephone contact information; choice to mail an application in hard copy; and optional questions on application.

Farmers Market: Liz and Kathryn will staff the RAC table at the Farmers Market on June 19 (2:30 to 6:30 pm) and Theo will stop by between 5:00 and 6:00 pm. We should coordinate with the City staff liaisons for future dates, which might coincide with other boards and commission tables (except not on the first Wednesday of the month when RAC meetings are scheduled).

Priorities and Process:

Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee is seeking members who are knowledgeable about the issues and who can commit to attending the meetings. There is a need for more advocates for pedestrian and disabled mobility to balance bicycle interests.

Cable Access Corporation held an open house in their new studios, where Liz was able to talk with committee members.

Conservation Commission reports that there is a need for people with plant knowledge, according to Liz's conversation with the Chair. Kathryn to reach out to Watertown Garden Club regarding possible candidates or recommendations for candidates.

Historic Commission is seeking to fill the resident/property owner position on the Commission. Kathryn met with Gideon Schriber and the chair of the Historic Commission to discuss outreach. Follow up is to confirm that property owners can serve even if not residents and to assist the Commission and City staff to send a letter and/or flyer to residents, landlords, and/or property owners in the district.

Environment and Energy Efficiency (E3) needs to fill several vacancies and is having trouble recruiting.

At 5:30, the meeting moved to Executive Session to interview and consider applicants for appointments to Watertown Boards, Commissions, and Committees. The meeting was not reconvened as a public meeting.

Minutes: Submitted by Kathryn Madden, June 3, 2024, approved July 8, 2024