



Sustainability Commission

Regular Meeting

335 South Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115
<https://www.deperewi.gov/>

Final Minutes

Tuesday, September 13, 2022

5:30 PM

Council Chambers and Virtual

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 PM by Alderperson John Quigley

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Jayne Black	Commissioner	Present	
Renee Gasch	Commissioner	Absent	
Emily Henrigillis	Commissioner	Present	
Randall Lawton	Commissioner	Present	
Eric Rakers	City Engineer	Absent	
John Quigley	Alderperson	Present	

Others present:

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director

Betty Sellenheim, Recording Secretary

II. Public comment upon matters not on the agenda. Comments made during the public comment period shall pertain only to matters under the jurisdiction of the Sustainability Commission. Section 6-3(f) DPMC

None

III. Items

1. Approval of the June 14, 2022 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Henrigillis moved to approve the June 14, 2022 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Lawton. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Emily Henrigillis, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Randall Lawton, Commissioner
AYES:	Jayne Black, Emily Henrigillis, Randall Lawton, John Quigley
ABSENT:	Renee Gasch, Eric Rakers

2. Commission Member Introductions

Members of the Commission and staff in attendance introduced themselves and their backgrounds.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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3. Discuss Sustainability Commission Purpose & Duties

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, reviewed the ordinance including purpose and duties, meeting frequency, and commission composition. Mr. Thoresen outlined examples of potential changes suggested to staff and requested members review the ordinance for additional changes. Alderperson Quigley asked members what frequency of meetings they would prefer to see for the commission. Commissioner Henrigillis commented that more frequent meetings generally results in more action. Commissioner

Black expressed her agreement. Mr. Thoresen stated if the commission decides to meet monthly, if there are no topics for discussion, the meeting would be cancelled that month, but monthly meetings would create consistency of availability of members, compared to scheduling special meetings. Mr. Thoresen outlined the process of making changes to the ordinance. Mr. Thoresen explained some research he did looking at the ordinances that established similar sustainability commissions and committees in communities of Wisconsin. Alderperson Quigley suggested members also do research on other communities while reviewing the De Pere ordinance for changes.

Alderperson Quigley moved to have a Special meeting scheduled for October 11 at 5:30 PM to take action on the frequency of meetings and other alterations to the Sustainability Commission Ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Henrigillis.

Commissioner Lawton asked about attending meetings virtually. Alderperson Quigley explained attendance and quorum. Mr. Thoresen and Betty Sellenheim, recording secretary, explained the importance of notifying staff of each member's availability and how it is used to determine the meeting accessibility.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Alderperson Quigley asked staff about the annual work plan as addressed in the ordinance. Mr. Thoresen stated it had been a few years since the work plan was presented and offered to send the work plan and Green Tier Scoresheet to members for review. Mr. Thoresen reiterated the importance of commission members initiating and taking responsibility for projects/initiatives. Commissioner Lawton suggested the members assess projects of interest for a 3-5 year timeline, this would allow time to get staff and resident buy-in and support, along with potential funding if necessary. Commissioner Lawton also added that this process would allow for members to assess if a project is attainable short-term or long-term and rank the projects by that standard. Alderperson Quigley requested discussion of the message and marketing of the commission to the public, as part of the ordinance discussion in October at the special meeting.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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4. Discuss Future Sustainable Projects

Commissioner Henrigillis suggested invasive species education (specifically buckthorn, phragmites, purple loosestrife).

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, explained work the City has contracted for removal of phragmites. Betty Sellenheim, recording secretary, suggested working with the Communications Specialist to include phragmites education on social media. Commissioner Lawton illustrated an example of effective phragmites removal on the Bay.

Commissioner Black suggested focusing on greener schools.

Mr. Thoresen mentioned a project the commission had previously discussed about stormwater and inlets and the importance of stormwater education for the City and permits. Commissioner Henrigillis and Black remarked that storm drain/inlet adoption was one of the projects on their lists. Alderperson Quigley suggested more celebration of the staff currently working on green initiatives to create momentum, along with implementing more projects. Commissioner Henrigillis explained about Fox Wolf Watershed/Northeast Wisconsin Stormwater Consortium offering stormwater programs free to schools.

Commissioner Henrigillis suggested changes to special event procedure to include sustainable options and proper cleanup/disposal.

Commissioner Black mentioned PepsiCo Rally as an option for the special events. Mr. Thoresen stressed the importance of proper disposal and explained the Trex program initiated from the commission. Alderperson Quigley suggested having examples directly on the carts showing what items can be placed in them for proper disposal. Mr. Thoresen explained the new stickers being placed on the collection carts in De Pere and the QR code for the Waste Wizard. Mr. Thoresen suggested touring the recycling facilities in the area. Ms. Sellenheim added that an in-depth virtual tour is also available online for the Outagamie County Recycling Facility.

Commissioner Henrigillis suggested adding pollinator strip or other pollinator attractant at the urban orchard locations. Mr. Thoresen stated that idea would fit with the planned natural landscape ordinance that has been previously discussed for implementation.

Commissioner Henrigillis suggested native plant index/demo sites for landscapes around the City for residents to use for inspiration in their yards. Alderperson Quigley suggested having spaces residents could adopt to plant demo sites. Mr. Thoresen stated having the planned natural landscape ordinance in place would be pertinent, as current ordinance would require cutting after growth to 12 inches. Commissioner Lawton shared a local business that has begun offering native pollinator starter sod rolls.

Commissioner Henrigillis suggested bird city-lights out initiative during migration times. Alderperson Quigley mentioned seeing a similar initiative on social media. Mr. Thoresen explained staff has been working on Bird City recognition.

Alderperson Quigley praised the members for the ideas brought forward. Mr. Thoresen agreed and reiterated the importance of members dedicated their time to achieving the goals of the commission. Commissioner Lawton added the importance of commission member time but also action to get community buy-in and support for commission projects.

Ms. Sellenheim let members know of an upcoming local event featuring solar power.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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IV. Future Agenda Items

Visit work plan

Commission Ordinance-frequency, purpose, communication/marketing, other changes

Clean air initiative

V. Adjournment

Commissioner Lawton moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 PM, seconded by Commissioner Henrigillis. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Sellenheim