



Sustainability Commission

335 South Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115
<http://www.de-pere.org>

Regular Meeting

Final Minutes

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

5:30 PM

De Pere City Hall Council Chambers

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Alderperson Casey Nelson

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Pat Finder-Stone	Board Member	Present	
Eric Rakers	City Engineer	Excused	
Casey Nelson	Alderperson	Present	
Renee Gasch		Present	
Rebecca McKean		Present	
Bill Niedzwiedz		Absent	
Larry Garrison		Excused	

Others Present:

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry

Betty Sellenheim, Public Works Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary

2. Approval of Sustainability Commission June 11, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner McKean moved to approve the June 11, 2019 Sustainability Commission meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Gasch. Upon vote the motion passed with 3 aye and 1 abstaining.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [3 TO 0]
MOVER:	Rebecca McKean, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Renee Gasch, Commissioner
AYES:	Casey Nelson, Renee Gasch, Rebecca McKean
ABSTAIN:	Pat Finder-Stone
ABSENT:	Bill Niedzwiedz
EXCUSED:	Eric Rakers, Larry Garrison

II. Public Portion

None

Alderperson Nelson welcomed Randall Lawton as a new member of the Commission and thanked the late Patricia Finder-Stone for her time and contribution to the Sustainability Commission and the City of De Pere.

Commissioner Renee Gasch proposed planting a memorial tree in memory of Patricia Finder-Stone.

III. Action Items

1. Discuss Plastic Bag Recycling Program

Alderperson Nelson recapped the discussion of this item at the June meeting. Nelson spoke about the Trex program that exchanges a certain amount of bags over a certain period of time for benches. Commissioner Gasch shared her research on plastic bag bans, plastic bag recycling, and her interview with Cody Sandahl, Energy & Material Recovery Manager at Festival Foods. Gasch outlined a few options for the City of De Pere to

participate in plastic bag recycling. Commissioner McKean asked if it would cost anything for the city to participate as a drop off location to haul to Festival. Gasch stated it would not cost anything to participate and Festival does not make any money off their collections.

Marty Kosobucki, Parks, Recreation & Forestry Director, questioned where the bags would need to be taken if the City participated with additional drop off locations. Gasch stated the Distribution Center in Green Bay would probably be best. Mr. Kosobucki asked if there were requirements regarding the state of the bags to be recycled. Gasch stated that like any other recycling, the items need to be clean. Commissioner Lawton shared his knowledge of Wisconsin Film & Bag in Shawano, Wisconsin. Gasch stated it would be good to have a map or list of local locations that accept plastic bags for recycling. Nelson asked if the city could still receive benches for their efforts if they were brought to Festival for recycling. Gasch stated that the city contribution would probably not be counted separately and would not receive benches. Gasch also stated that Trex sells benches made from the recycled bags that could be looked into for purchase of memorial benches through the city's program. Commissioner McKean mentioned an educational component would benefit residents including what types of plastics can be recycled and where. Mr. Kosobucki expressed interest in the benches for city parks and memorial benches. Gasch explained she only spoke with Festival Foods and researched Trex but felt more research was needed for the other options. Gasch also mentioned that Trex is located across the country and would require shipping. Gasch discussed creating a smaller working group to launch an initiative for plastic bag recycling in 2020. Mr. Kosobucki explained budget process and what would be needed depending on what the commission wanted to accomplish. Mr. Kosobucki explained the budget process starts in July and continues until mid-November and what options would require funding through a budget line item. Gasch believes the commission should work on a free initiative regarding plastic bag recycling for 2020 and work on getting funds for an initiative in 2021. Commissioners discussed using the City website and Facebook accounts to get the word out about plastic bag recycling. Nelson mentioned adding information to the water bill. Mr. Kosobucki stated that there was an additional cost for that option. Commissioners requested additional locations be added to the location list available on the city website.

IV. Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Gasch stated the need for compost-food waste locations.

Alderman Nelson would like to reinstate the revolving loan fund for sustainable initiatives in new businesses.

Commissioner Gasch requested assistance on a stormwater education campaign for 2020.

V. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:10 PM by Commissioner Lawton, seconded by Commissioner Gasch. Upon vote the motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Sellenheim