



# Sustainability Commission

## Regular Meeting

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

### Final Minutes

Tuesday, September 8, 2020

5:30 PM

#### I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Alderperson Shana Defnet Ledvina

| Attendee Name        | Title         | Status  | Arrived |
|----------------------|---------------|---------|---------|
| Larry Garrison       | Commissioner  | Remote  |         |
| Renee Gasch          | Commissioner  | Excused |         |
| Randall Lawton       | Commissioner  | Remote  |         |
| Shana Defnet Ledvina | Alderperson   | Remote  |         |
| Rebecca McKean       | Commissioner  | Remote  |         |
| Bill Niedzwiedz      | Commissioner  | Remote  |         |
| Eric Rakers          | City Engineer | Late    | 5:56 PM |

Others present:

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works (Remote)

Betty Sellenheim, Recording Secretary (Remote)

#### II. Action Items

1. Approval of the August 13, 2020 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

**Commissioner McKean moved to approved the August 11, 2020 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Lawton.**

**Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

|                  |                                                      |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ADOPTED [5 TO 0]</b>                              |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Rebecca McKean, Commissioner                         |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Randall Lawton, Commissioner                         |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Garrison, Lawton, Defnet Ledvina, McKean, Niedzwiedz |
| <b>EXCUSED:</b>  | Renee Gasch                                          |
| <b>AWAY:</b>     | Eric Rakers                                          |

2. Discuss Future Sustainability Video Tutorial Ideas

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, explained this item was requested by Commissioner Gasch who is not present to discuss and this item will be delayed until the next meeting.

3. Discuss Sustainability Scoresheet for 2020 Projects

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, outlined the included spreadsheet which was condensed to include topics of interest from past discussions. Topics were ranked loosely based on feasibility and cost for completion/implementation and notes were included regarding cost and level of interest.

Alderperson Ledvina asked the intention of the agenda item. Mr. Thoresen stated he would like to see the commission pick 4 to 6 items to work on for completion by end of 2021. Commissioner Niedzwiedz suggested selecting topics where the information or manpower is readily available to complete (inventory of wetlands, inventory of contaminated properties). Commissioner McKean agreed with working on those topics and suggested careful planning to not exhaust too many resources (SNC). Commissioner

Lawton and Alderperson Ledvina agreed on selecting one of the suggested topics. Commissioner Niedzwiedz asked if the city had the information needed to complete the fuel usage topic (listed as #1). Mr. Thoresen stated that information is tracked by staff. Alderperson Ledvina asked staff if there were any other easily attainable topics. Mr. Thoresen stated his agreeance with some of the lower ranked topics being easily attainable. Commissioner Lawton asked if a policy could be established to replace street lights at 75 lumen and as they require replacing, the City will be achieving that goal. Mr. Thoresen stated the problem the City will face is that many street lights in the city are owned and maintained by WPS. Staff is working with WPS to establish a policy regarding the replacement of bulbs in WPS owned/maintained poles. Commissioner Garrison expressed interest in a policy to install trees in new developments and the topics relating to biking amenities and certification. Alderperson Ledvina agreed the League of American Bicyclist Certification would provide a good number of points. Alderperson Ledvina asked if planting of trees could be added to development agreements. Mr. Thoresen explained the issues that may arise from adding that request on the agreement with a developer. Alderperson Ledvina asked staff to look into this topic further. Mr. Thoresen stated staff would look into it and work with Planning while they revise their codes and ordinances. Mr. Thoresen asked Betty Sellenheim, recording secretary, for additional information regarding the League Certification. Ms. Sellenheim explained the deadline had been extended to October 1, 2020 but did not think the application could be completed by that time but agreed to send to the commission members for review. Alderperson Ledvina asked for clarification on the topics that were listed as “maxed out”. Mr. Thoresen stated the City had achieved all available points for those items. Commissioner McKean offered to reach out to Brown County to obtain inventory data. Mr. Thoresen stated staff has mapped a considerable amount of wetlands on the City DIME application (potentially from Brown County). Mr. Thoresen offered to follow up with GIS on the accuracy. Alderperson Ledvina asked how full points could be achieved for the commuter bike routes topic. Mr. Thoresen stated he would look into it. Alderperson Ledvina asked if this item could be brought back to a future meeting to discuss the topics that were left open for further review. Mr. Thoresen stated topics with questions would be answered and clarified at the next meeting. Alderperson Ledvina expressed interest in working toward Bird City Wisconsin Certification.

Topics of highest interest to complete for 2020-2021:

Calculate annual government fleet fuel usage (ranked #1)  
Inventory wetlands (ranked #2) OR Inventory contaminated sites (ranked #4)  
Identify disconnections in bike and pedestrian networks (ranked #6)  
League of American Bicyclists (ranked #10)  
Identify and clear commuter bike routes (ranked #16)  
Require trees to be planted in all new developments (ranked #17)  
Certification as Bird City Wisconsin (ranked #19)  
Streetslights operating at 75 lumens (ranked #24)  
Provide an on-street and/or off-street trail network (ranked #25)

No action necessary

4. Discuss Renewable Energy Work Plan

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, explained the decision at the previous meeting to pause the work on the resolution and work to develop a renewable energy work plan.

The intent of the agenda item is to start discussions on a renewable energy work plan for the City of De Pere, which will be discussed over the course of a few meetings and provided to Council upon approval by the commission. Mr. Thoresen stated that Commissioner McKean had provided comments on the City of Green Bay Renewable Energy Work Plan and they were included in the packet for review.

Aldersperson Ledvina praised the work that Commissioner McKean put into modifying the Green Bay work plan. Commissioner McKean explained her process of reviewing and modifying the Green Bay work plan. Commissioner Rakers asked for clarification on a change from “renewable energy” to “carbon neutrality”. Commissioner McKean explained her reasons for the change in verbiage. Commissioner Rakers offered trees as an option to work towards carbon neutrality that would not be considered renewable energy. Commissioner Lawton offered LED light replacements as a similar concept. All commissioners agreed with accepting that change of verbiage. Commissioner McKean questioned the willingness of members to work towards the objectives in the work plan. Commissioner McKean offered to work on objective #1 (baseline assessment) and objective #3 (white paper report) and asked if others would work on topics individually or together and City staff time. Mr. Thoresen offered city staff assistance where possible but agreed that overall the commission members need to tackle the objectives and take ownership of the work plan. Aldersperson Ledvina and Commissioner Rakers stated their willingness to work on objectives once the work plan was solidified. Commissioner Niedzwiedz questioned if the plan was for city buildings or city-wide implementation. Mr. Thoresen stated it was city-wide including government operations. Commissioner Niedzwiedz questioned city recommendations to residents regarding native species plantings. Mr. Thoresen stated a few projects that have been presented to the city. Commissioner Lawton expressed interest in research being conducted from other municipalities and their ability and outcome for residential private property involvement. Aldersperson Ledvina asked how Commissioner McKean feels the city should start on the baseline assessment. Commissioner McKean outlined some of the research she did while reviewing the Green Bay work plan, but stated she does not have personal experience on conducting the baseline assessment and would work with other commission members to achieve it. Aldersperson Ledvina stated Green Bay may have someone on their Sustainability Commission with experience in baseline assessments and perhaps commission members can reach out and gain knowledge from them. Mr. Thoresen stated staff could reach out to other communities in regards to obtaining a baseline assessment. Aldersperson Ledvina asked if Green Tier would have information or resources on this topic. Mr. Thoresen stated that was a resource he was going to reach out to. Aldersperson Ledvina questioned how long staff thought the research would take. Mr. Thoresen stated a special meeting could be scheduled for the work plan on November 10 at 5:30 PM.

No action necessary

### III. Future Agenda Items

None

### IV. Adjournment

**Commissioner Rakers moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 PM, seconded by Commissioner Garrison.**

**Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Betty Sellenheim