



Sustainability Commission

Regular Meeting

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

Final Minutes

Tuesday, June 14, 2022

5:30 PM

Council Chambers and Virtual

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 PM by Alderperson John Quigley

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Renee Gasch	Commissioner	Present	
Emily Henrigillis	Commissioner	Remote	
Randall Lawton	Commissioner	Late	6:05 PM
Paul Linzmeyer	Commissioner	Absent	
Bill VanBeek	Commissioner	Present	
John Quigley	Alderperson	Present	
Eric Rakers	City Engineer	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. §6-3(f) DPMC

None

III. Items

1. Approval of the March 8, 2022 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissioner VanBeek moved to approve the March 8, 2022 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Gasch. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bill VanBeek, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Renee Gasch, Commissioner
AYES:	Gasch, Henrigillis, VanBeek, Quigley, Rakers
ABSENT:	Paul Linzmeyer
EXCUSED:	Randall Lawton

2. Consider and Possible Action for Election of Chairperson

Commissioner Rakers nominated Alderperson Quigley as Chairperson, seconded by Commissioner Gasch. Upon vote, Alderperson Quigley was unanimously elected Chairperson.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Eric Rakers, City Engineer
SECONDER:	Renee Gasch, Commissioner
AYES:	Gasch, Henrigillis, VanBeek, Quigley, Rakers
ABSENT:	Paul Linzmeyer
EXCUSED:	Randall Lawton

3. Consider and Possible Action for Election of Vice-Chairperson

Commissioner Rakers nominated Commissioner Lawton. Commissioner Gasch nominated herself, seconded by Alderperson Quigley. Upon vote, Commissioner Gasch was unanimously elected Vice-Chairperson.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Renee Gasch, Commissioner
SECONDER:	John Quigley, Alderperson
AYES:	Gasch, Henrigillis, VanBeek, Quigley, Rakers
ABSENT:	Paul Linzmeyer
EXCUSED:	Randall Lawton

4. Discuss Sustainability Commission Purpose & Duties

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, explained the purpose and duties of the Sustainability Commission and its establishment. Mr. Thoresen let the Commission members know that revisions are possible to the ordinance establishing the commission and the purpose and duties thereof. Mr. Thoresen outlined initiatives that have come through the Sustainability Commission. Commissioner VanBeek supported the ordinance and the broad outline provided to work within for green initiatives community-wide. Mr. Thoresen agreed that the initiatives should provide direction community-wide, rather than directing city operations. Mr. Thoresen added that Green Bay offers sub-committees in their Sustainability Commission to work on different projects, but current De Pere Ordinance would not allow this and the Commission may request to have that revised. Commissioner Gasch suggested specifying the Green Tier spreadsheet annual updates under the "duties" section of the ordinance and asked staff about updates since induction. Mr. Thoresen supported the addition of Green Tier annual updates or wording with regards to external organizations. Mr. Thoresen then provided an overview of the scoresheet updates and requirements and suggested including a discussion of the program and scoresheet, along with ordinance changes at the September meeting. Betty Sellenheim, recording secretary, suggested having commissioners provide ordinance changes and update requests via email prior to the September meeting to allow staff to condense them and bring them for discussion. Mr. Thoresen agreed with this plan of action. Commissioner VanBeek asked the process of approving ordinance changes presented in September. Mr. Thoresen explained the process. Alderperson Quigley asked for clarification of the members roles as part of the commission to accomplish the bullet points listed as the powers and duties of the sustainability commission. Mr. Thoresen explained by example the initiative and effort required by members to accomplish the duties and tasks. Alderperson Quigley asked if initiatives could be requested during the future agenda items section of the meeting to be addressed at the next meeting. Mr. Thoresen stated they can be requested at that time or up until the meeting agenda is created by contacting staff.

RESULT: NO ACTION

5. Discuss 2022 No Mow May Results

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, provided an update on the program and changes that were made from year one to year two of participation. Commissioner Lawton asked if staff received any complaints regarding the No Mow May program. Betty Sellenheim, recording secretary, responded that staff received one phone call complaint in the office. Alderperson Quigley responded that he received two phone call complaints from constituents. Commissioner Gasch provided positive feedback she received while soliciting signatures for political candidates in May and suggested that the complaints were not an indication of the entire population. Mr. Thoresen agreed. Alderperson Quigley suggested a stronger educational component if the City offers No Mow May for residents in future years. Mr. Thoresen shared an overview of the information provided on the city website for No Mow May and agreed there are opportunities to grow each year. Commissioner Gasch provided positive feedback for the joint press release issued by De Pere and Green Bay. Mr. Thoresen added that multiple other communities initiated programs upon seeing the joint program De Pere and Green Bay offered their residents.

RESULT: NO ACTION

6. Discuss Planned Natural Landscape Areas

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, explained planned natural landscapes, ordinance changes that would be required to allow them, and the process of implementation. Commissioner Gasch stated that one of the topics for the September Farmers Market was perennial plantings and that would offer a chance for community outreach regarding the potential planned natural landscape ordinance.

RESULT: NO ACTION

7. Discuss Sustainability Commission Booth at the 2022 Farmer's Market

Alderperson Quigley reiterated a previously mentioned point that the June booth space was cancelled due to lack of involvement and asked how the next event was looking for volunteers. Betty Sellenheim, recording secretary, provided there was only one opening to fill. Commissioner VanBeek offered to fill the remaining opening for the July booth. Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, listed the designated topics for the remaining months and outlined the expectations during the events.

RESULT: NO ACTION

8. Consider and possible action on Commissioner Gasch's Request for Idle Limit Ordinance

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, overviewed the Idle Limit Ordinance from previous meetings with the intent of getting action on the item during this meeting. Commissioner Gasch further explained her request for a Clean Air Ordinance and what it entails along with a draft resolution. Mr. Thoresen explained that in order to be enforced, an ordinance would need to be created, rather than a resolution and asked how Commissioner Gasch hoped to proceed. Commissioner Gasch stated an ordinance would be created but thought the resolution provided context about why the City would create an ordinance. Commissioner Rakers stated concerns about enforceability and utilizing police time and resources. Commissioner Gasch defended her request and asked for other suggestions of how to prevent idling in the community if there were concerns. Commissioner Gasch commented the an ordinance with signage that allowed self-

regulation was her preferred enforcement, rather than getting the police heavily involved or writing tickets. Commissioner Lawton provided feedback regarding the feasibility of the ordinance and what he sees as a culture change with limiting or eliminating idling. Alderperson Quigley moved to have staff draft a clear air ordinance to include information about other communities with similar ordinances and how enforcement issues are handled, seconded by Commissioner Gasch.

Commissioner VanBeek agreed with concerns of Commissioner Rakers and stated this request clearly aligned with the role of the commission as outlined earlier in the meeting. Commissioner VanBeek further added that he did not agree with it being focused around schools, but should be directed city-wide. Commissioner Gasch added that this request also aligns with the Green Tier scoresheet. Commissioner Rakers stated there are many items listed on the Green Tier scoresheet, which acts as a guideline of ideas, and members may agree or disagree with each idea individually. Commissioner Gasch expressed her concerns that there are not enough things being done from the scoresheet. Upon vote, the motion passed with a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Rakers voting no.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [4 TO 1]
MOVER:	John Quigley, Alderperson
SECONDER:	Renee Gasch, Commissioner
AYES:	Renee Gasch, Randall Lawton, Bill VanBeek, John Quigley
NAYS:	Eric Rakers
EXCUSED:	Paul Linzmeyer
AWAY:	Emily Henrigillis

IV. Future Agenda Items

Alderperson Quigley requested a work plan update.

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, suggested a discussion of the Green Tier program and scoresheet, along with commission member proposed ordinance changes

V. Adjournment

Commissioner Rakers moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 PM, seconded by Commissioner Gasch. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Sellenheim