



Sustainability Commission

Regular Meeting

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

Final Minutes

Tuesday, June 11, 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
Eric Rakers	City Engineer	Present	
Pat Finder-Stone	Commissioner	Absent	
Casey Nelson	Alderperson	Present	
Renee Gasch	Commissioner	Present	
Rebecca McKean	Commissioner	Present	
Bill Niedzwiedz	Commissioner	Present	
Larry Garrison	Commissioner	Present	

Others present:

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works

Betty Sellenheim, Public Works Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary

Chairperson Nelson welcomed new members Larry Garrison and Eric Rakers.

2. Approval of Sustainability Commission March 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Renee Gasch moved to approve the March 12, 2019 Sustainability Commission meeting minutes, seconded by Bill Niedzwiedz.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Renee Gasch
SECONDER:	Bill Niedzwiedz
AYES:	Rakers, Nelson, Gasch, McKean, Niedzwiedz, Garrison
ABSENT:	Pat Finder-Stone

II. Public Portion

None

III. Action Items

1. Consider Green Tier Legacy Resolution*

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, reviewed the Green Tier Legacy Program as outlined at the previous meeting by Weston Wegener with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The program is cooperative with other agencies and departments across the state of Wisconsin to network and discuss sustainable practices. Mr. Thoresen explained the first step to becoming members is to approve the included resolution and forward it to Common Council for approval. Mr. Thoresen further explained that an annual report is required to be provided to the Wisconsin DNR to remain members of the program.

Chairperson Casey Nelson asked if the report was annual based on the date the city joined or a specific date for all participants. Mr. Thoresen imagined it would be a specific deadline. Committee member Larry Garrison asked if there were specific stipulations or

requirements that the city needs to agree to as members. Mr. Thoresen stated that there are specific things the city needs to do to maintain membership. Chairperson Nelson stated that the program is voluntary for participation and there are quarterly meetings that occur in person and over Skype. Mr. Thoresen stated as he receives information from the DNR, he will distribute to the other members and encouraged members to attend meetings in person if they are within a reasonable travel distance.

Renee Gasch moved to approve the Green Tier Legacy Resolution, seconded by Larry Garrison.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Renee Gasch
SECONDER:	Larry Garrison
AYES:	Rakers, Nelson, Gasch, McKean, Niedzwiedz, Garrison
ABSENT:	Pat Finder-Stone

2. Consider Ordinance to Prohibit Coal Tar-Based Sealants*

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, introduced the proposed ordinance to ban coal tar-based sealants. Clean Wisconsin is spearheading the ban of coal tar-based sealants along with other agencies. The City of De Pere Engineering Department has taken action to remove the use of this product in the city specifications for projects. The ordinance would prohibit the use of coal tar-based sealants within the City of De Pere. Commission member Eric Rakers, City Engineer, further explained the harmful effects of coal tar-based sealants on stormwater and population health. Notification would be provided to entities that sell sealants, entities/contractors that use sealants, and products would be checked as staff noticed sealant work being completed within the city. Commission member Renee Gasch requested public education be a key part of the notification process. Commission member Rebecca McKean questioned if the Clean Wisconsin brochure would be provided for education and notification purposes. Mr. Rakers stated that Clean Wisconsin's brochure is well put together and informative and staff would ensure the alternatives are also included. Chairperson Casey Nelson asked if there is any action at the state level to ban these products. Mr. Rakers stated that Clean Wisconsin specifically targeted municipalities with this ban. Commission member Bill Niedzwiedz asked how community members are informed of ordinance changes. Mr. Thoresen explained that the Communication Specialist on staff has been providing updates on the city website and social media platforms, flyers/brochures are available in the office buildings, and newsletters can be updated with the information. Commission member Renee Gasch proposed a stormwater educational campaign.

Eric Rakers moved to have staff draft an ordinance prohibiting the use of Coal Tar-Based sealants and forward to Common Council for approval, seconded by Rebecca McKean.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Eric Rakers, City Engineer
SECONDER:	Rebecca McKean
AYES:	Rakers, Nelson, Gasch, McKean, Niedzwiedz, Garrison
ABSENT:	Pat Finder-Stone

3. Discuss Creating 2019 Work Plan

Chairperson Casey Nelson stated Green Bay's work plan was attached in the packet and explained aspects he liked about the plan. Commission member Eric Rakers, City Engineer, stated that the commission may want to use the Green Tier checklist as a base to build the goals. Mr. Rakers also stated that it would be a good idea to make a list of the actions the city has taken over the last few years towards sustainability and create a baseline. In the last few years the city has done the following work towards sustainability: narrowed roads, recycled material on construction projects, increased the bike and pedestrian facilities, and certain aspects of stormwater management. Commission member Rebecca McKean agreed that a baseline is necessary for Green Tier as well as for member information for goal setting. Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, offered to distribute the Green Tier checklist document and described having it be a working document going forward to track progress annually towards membership maintenance. Chairperson Nelson asked approximately how long it would take staff to assemble the baseline information. Mr. Thoresen stated that within the next week or two he would reach out to Mr. Wegener with the DNR and to Commission members with the checklist. Commission member Larry Garrison stated the baseline would be helpful for members to know if projects they are interested in are already being worked on at the staff level. Commission member Renee Gasch stated that becoming a 0% carbon emitting city with an entirely renewable system is her motivation ideally by 2030. Member Gasch stated she would also like to see discussion with Mulva Cultural Center to be a green tier certified building. Member McKean supported that idea. Mr. Thoresen stated that the commission will not be able to require development to be sustainable but can encourage it. Member Garrison requested installation of solar powered street lights. Mr. Thoresen stated that solar power is difficult within the City of De Pere due to the urban tree canopy but is being used where possible. Member Rakers stated as technology improves, products usually become more economically viable over time to implement. Member Gasch asked if sustainability was mentioned in the Cultural District Master Plan. Mr. Thoresen stated the master plan primarily outlined the type of buildings that would be allowable in that area. Commission member Bill Niedzwiedz asked if there was action taken to maintain the historic nature of downtown. Mr. Thoresen explained the Plan Commission handles the review of plans for construction. Member Gasch asked if the Plan Commission reviews the environmental impacts of construction projects. Mr. Thoresen explained that the Engineering Department reviews the stormwater management aspects of plans.

Discussion item only. No action necessary.

4. Open Discussion on Potential Sustainable Projects

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, stated this open discussion ties in with the previous discussion of work plans. Chairperson Casey Nelson stated one of his interests is how energy is produced and consumed. Chairperson Nelson stated his idea of reducing taxes for solar panel/energy usage (solar tax credit or rebate). Commission member

Gasch stated she would like to see additional trees planted by the city in the terrace of residential areas. Mr. Thoresen outlined the annual tree planting program, urban orchards, and community gardens. Commission member Bill Niedzwiedz asked the process of replacing ash trees as they are removed due to Emerald Ash Borer. Mr. Thoresen stated that the exact specifications and questions would be best directed to the City Forester. Staff is actively taking down ash trees as they are deteriorating and eventually replacing as long as the requirements are met per the tree planting policy. Commission member Larry Garrison stated his idea of a plastic straw reduction and biodegradable straw awareness campaign. Chairperson Nelson noted the increase of natural lawns and reduction or elimination of fertilizers. Commission member Eric Rakers, City Engineer, stated his support of natural lawns and incorporating prairies and no-mow practices in large lots within the city to help with goose control and pollutant reduction. Mr. Rakers stated it should be researched with other communities to see where natural areas work and where it doesn't work as well. Member Gasch stated her support for natural lawns and no-mow practices were possible within the city and suggested compiling an annual cost for mowing by city staff including labor and equipment. Member Gasch also requested information on how much it would cost to convert the city's mowers to electric. Chairperson Nelson and member Gasch stated their support of CNG and energy efficient vehicles. Commission member Rebecca McKean stated her support of eliminating plastic shopping bags. Member Garrison stated that a few groceries stores in the area will give a small monetary incentive for bringing reusable bags. Chairperson Nelson stated there are a few locations in De Pere that offer plastic bag recycling. Commission member Eric Rakers, City Engineer, mentioned the implementation of a sustainable section of the website to provide information and education to the public on the use of sustainable practices, such as using reusable bags. Member Gasch asked if a city location could have a plastic bag recycling container. Mr. Thoresen stated at this time, staff recommends Festival Food for a drop-off location.

Discussion item only. No action necessary.

IV. Future Agenda Items

Commission member Eric Rakers, City Engineer, stated it would be beneficial for the Sustainability Commission to receive updates of what the City Sustainability group was implementing or discussing. Commission member Gasch asked about attending Green Bay Sustainability meetings for brainstorming purposes. Chairperson Casey Nelson stated Green Bay Sustainability meetings are open meetings for attendance. Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, stated his support of networking with other communities and as Green Tier members networking opportunities will open up.

Chairperson Nelson thanked everyone for attending.

V. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:57 PM by Eric Rakers, seconded by Renee Gasch.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

***Items with an asterisk require City Council approval.**

Any person wishing to attend this meeting who, because of disability, requires special accommodations should contact the Clerk-Treasurer's office at 339-4050 by Noon the day of the meeting, so arrangements can be made.

Agenda Sent To:
Commission Members
Mayor
Alderspersons
Department Heads
TV, Newspapers & Radio Stations
Kress Family Library
De Pere Chamber of Commerce

Notice is hereby given that a majority of the members of the Common Council of the City of De Pere may attend this meeting to gather information about a subject (s) over which they have decision-making responsibility.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Sellenheim