



Sustainability Commission

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

Regular Meeting

Final Minutes

Tuesday, June 9, 2020

5:30 PM

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Betty Sellenheim

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Larry Garrison	Commissioner	Remote	
Renee Gasch	Commissioner	Remote	
Randall Lawton	Commissioner	Late	5:35 PM
Shana Defnet Ledvina	Aldersperson	Present	
Rebecca McKean	Commissioner	Remote	
Bill Niedzwiedz	Commissioner	Excused	
Eric Rakers	City Engineer	Remote	

Others present:

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works

Betty Sellenheim, Recording Secretary

Mary Radue, Sweet Willow Herbal Co-op (remote)

Casey Hicks, Wisconsin Conservation Voters (remote)

Betty Sellenheim, Recording Secretary, requested nominations for the chair pro tem.

Commissioner Rakers nominated Aldersperson Ledvina.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of the March 10, 2020 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Garrison moved to approve the March 10, 2020 Sustainability Commission meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner McKean.

Upon vote, the motion passed 4-0-1 with Commissioner Rakers abstaining.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [4 TO 0]
MOVER:	Larry Garrison, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Rebecca McKean, Commissioner
AYES:	Larry Garrison, Renee Gasch, Shana Defnet Ledvina, Rebecca McKean
ABSTAIN:	Eric Rakers
EXCUSED:	Randall Lawton, Bill Niedzwiedz

II. Public Comment

None

III. Action Items

1. Consider Zero Waste Workshop

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, introduced Commissioner Gasch to further discuss the workshop plan. Commissioner Gasch explained that multiple workshops had been postponed due to COVID-19 and hoped to offer an alternate virtual workshop and informational/educational video. Commissioner Gasch explained the topic of zero waste and partnering with Sweet Willow Herbal Co-op, a zero waste business in De Pere to

educate the public on the topic. Commissioner Gasch proposed the first workshop/video be focused on reducing and recycling plastics in coordination with the Trex challenge.

Commission Garrison provided positive response to the plan. Commissioner Gasch mentioned that many grocery stores are limiting or not allowing patrons to use reusable bags at their stores creating more plastic bags in the community. Mr. Thoresen asked Commissioner Gasch if she planned to spearhead this effort and who the target audience would be. Commissioner Gasch agreed to spearhead the project with Heather and Mary from Sweet Willow Herbal Co-op, with the support of De Pere TV or Social Media Specialist, and would be offered community-wide. Commissioner Gasch proposed the workshop being a YouTube video shared through social media or a Facebook live event, but would work with staff on the feasibility and best options. Mr. Thoresen stated staff would be able to work with the Commission but due to the current restrictions in place for COVID-19 there might be additional concerns or issues. Commissioner Gasch requested the timeline for opening. Mr. Thoresen stated phase I will be implemented June 15, 2020. Commissioner Gasch requested the timeline for starting the Trex challenge. Mr. Thoresen stated he is working with staff to get the collection bins out shortly. Alderperson Ledvina questioned staff creating an informational/educational video and posting to social media. Mr. Thoresen stated that was one option that could be pursued. Commissioner Rakers requested further details regarding agenda items going forward. Commissioner Lawton agreed with Commissioner Rakers to have additional information and be informed coming into the meeting. Commissioner McKean proposed a series of short videos to get community members thinking about sustainability and tying them into the Trex challenge until in-person workshops can take place. Commissioner Gasch agreed with that plan.

Commissioner Gasch moved to approve a zero waste video tutorial series, seconded by Commissioner McKean.

Upon vote, the motion passed 5-1 with Commissioner Rakers voting no.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [5 TO 1]
MOVER:	Renee Gasch, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Rebecca McKean, Commissioner
AYES:	Garrison, Gasch, Lawton, Defnet Ledvina, McKean
NAYS:	Eric Rakers
EXCUSED:	Bill Niedzwiedz

2. Consider Clean Energy Resolution*

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, explained a draft resolution from Commissioner Gasch was provided and introduced Casey Hicks to present regarding that resolution.

Commissioner Gasch moved to open the meeting for public comment at 5:54 PM, seconded by Commissioner Garrison. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Casey Hicks, Wisconsin Conservation Voters, presented on the climate change, City of De Pere draft resolution, resolutions and action plans from other communities, and resources. Commissioner Gasch explained why she believes this resolution is a good step for the City of De Pere and should be recommended to the Common Council for adoption. Mr. Thoresen explained some concerns regarding budget and how choosing

clean energy may impact the residents of De Pere financially. Commissioner Rakers stated concerns regarding financial impacts, carbon emissions during production process, and other sustainable projects that would benefit the City, residents, and environment. Commissioner Lawton explained his past experiences with clean energy, financial concerns for the residents of De Pere and concerns regarding the content of the resolution. Commissioner McKean explained her past experiences and research regarding climate change and requested Mr. Hicks provide information regarding how other communities have dealt with budgetary concerns produced by the resolution. Mr. Hicks explained budgetary concerns using Eau Claire as an example including a \$150,000 grant from Public Service Commission. Commissioner McKean and Alderperson Ledvina agreed to start with a work plan due to budgetary concerns and then look at passing a resolution. Mr. Thoresen questioned the planning process through Eau Claire including work plan, staff time, baseline assessment, and funding. Mr. Hicks stated Eau Claire hired a consultant using the grant money to get them started but many options exist for getting started. Mr. Thoresen questioned if other communities have hired new positions in regards to clean energy and carbon neutrality goals. Mr. Hicks stated that other communities have hired full-time or grant funded positions. Commissioner Lawton stated his beliefs that bringing the resolution to Council is premature, additional research needs to be done to better understand the goals in their entirety, and a work plan should be tackled first. Mr. Thoresen asked if Green Bay's commitment to carbon neutrality was part of their Green Tier qualifications since their commitment was not done through a resolution but rather as part of their sustainability workplan. Mr. Hicks stated he was unsure if they were directly related. Commissioner Gasch stated there are about 20 points on the sustainability scoresheet relating to passing or establishing and achieving the goals as discussed in the resolution.

Commissioner Rakers moved to close the meeting from public comment at 6:51 PM, seconded by Commissioner Lawton. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Ledvina suggested holding a special meeting to further discuss the resolution and Sustainability Strategies Scoresheet.

Commissioner Lawton moved to postpone action on the Clean Energy Resolution until the next meeting, seconded by Commissioner Rakers.

Commissioner Lawton discussed his proposed timeline of bringing this back for the next regular meeting. Commissioner Gasch stated the Mayor and City Administrator were in full support of the resolution. Alderperson Ledvina stated the Mayor and City Administrator had reservations regarding the budget and clean energy and carbon neutrality resolution. Alderperson Ledvina stated her beliefs that bringing this to Council without fully understanding the resolution would be premature. Commissioner Garrison agreed with needing additional information before moving forward with recommending this resolution.

Upon vote, the motion passed 5-1 with Commissioner Gasch voting no.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [5 TO 1]
MOVER:	Randall Lawton, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Eric Rakers, City Engineer
AYES:	Garrison, Lawton, Defnet Ledvina, McKean, Rakers
NAYS:	Renee Gasch
EXCUSED:	Bill Niedzwiedz

3. Consider Baseline Assessment Projects

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, outlined this item through the Commission over the last few months. Mr. Thoresen stated the goal is to create a list of projects to be tackled based off the Sustainability Strategies Scoresheet. Mr. Thoresen suggested a special meeting to address this agenda item. Alderperson Ledvina and Commissioner McKean agreed with holding a special meeting. Commissioner Gasch stated she has been reviewing the scoresheet and has a list of her top projects and encouraged that commission members come prepared with lists to the next meeting to help facilitate the meeting. Mr. Thoresen stated the scoresheet is included in the agenda for review. Commissioner Lawton requested to add a discussion of the clean energy and carbon neutrality resolution to the special meeting.

IV. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Thoresen questioned Commissioner Gasch updating the Commission on the workshops and video series. Commissioner Gasch agreed to do that.

V. Adjournment

Commissioner Lawton moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 PM, seconded by Commissioner Gasch.

Upon vote, the motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

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

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

Agenda Sent To:

Alderspersons
City Administrator
Mayor
Department Heads
TV, Newspapers & Radio Stations
Kress Family Library
De Pere Chamber of Commerce

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Sellenheim