



Sustainability Commission

Regular Meeting

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

Final Minutes

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

5:30 PM

Council Chambers and Virtual

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Alderperson John Quigley

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Renee Gasch	Commissioner	Remote	
Randall Lawton	Commissioner	Present	
Paul Linzmeyer	Commissioner	Excused	
Rebecca McKean	Commissioner	Excused	
John Quigley	Alderperson	Present	
Eric Rakers	City Engineer	Present	
Bill VanBeek	Commissioner	Present	

Others present:

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director

Betty Sellenheim, Recording Secretary

II. Public Comment Period

None

III. Action Items

1. Approve Sustainability Commission September 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Van Beek moved to approve the September 14, 2021 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Rakers. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bill VanBeek, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Eric Rakers, City Engineer
AYES:	Gasch, Lawton, Quigley, Rakers, VanBeek
EXCUSED:	Paul Linzmeyer, Rebecca McKean

2. Consideration and possible action regarding Renewable Energy Work Plan*

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, outlined the Renewable Energy Work Plan and history of the plan discussions through the Commission.

Commissioner Rakers spoke in favor of the City work plan as presented. Commissioner Lawton asked if the work plan was for City operations or City-wide. Mr. Thoresen stated his understanding of it being a combination of both, with the ultimate goal being City-wide renewable energy use, including outreach and education. Commissioner Lawton further asked if the work plan had originally been focused on operations and evolved to city-wide. Mr. Thoresen stated that was correct and primarily due to the ability to obtain a baseline for the entire city's energy use. Commissioner Lawton asked if the work plan allows for the City to hire a contractor to obtain a baseline. Mr. Thoresen stated he believed that would be possible based on the verbiage. Alderperson Quigley asked how close staff was to obtaining the City baseline and whether it would allow goals to be set to achieve certain levels by certain years. Mr. Thoresen explained the volume of data to

compile, reiterated the need for Commissioner members to take on projects, and outlined a few sustainable projects the city has undertaken over the years. Mr. Thoresen mentioned that the long-term reduction goals were meant for city-wide use, rather than strictly operations, and stated he has reached out to the liaison for City of Green Bay to collaborate on projects and grants. Commissioner Gasch stated another part of the City-wide operations will also be reliant on the source of energy (i.e. where is WPS getting their energy from that they provide to residents). Commissioner Gasch asked how the Commission could obtain funds to provide a stipend for a consultant. Mr. Thoresen explained the budget process for the City. Alderperson Quigley volunteered to assist with data entry for City operations or suggested having an afternoon that multiple Commissioners could assist. Mr. Thoresen mentioned that City of Green Bay Sustainability has subcommittees that meet to work on certain projects and provide updates during the scheduled Commission meetings. Alderperson Quigley mentioned his idea to incentivize community members for providing updates to city for their personal updates (solar, new windows, energy-efficient appliances). Commissioner Gasch stated her support for the idea and suggested tying it to an energy-efficiency campaign and utilizing social media. Commissioner Van Beek supported the idea, adding that it may not provide information that could alter the baseline but would allow for community involvement. Commissioner Van Beek added that the work plan will likely have two different outcomes; a more-detailed, micro-level approach to City operation energy usage and a broad-scale, macro-level approach to City-wide energy usage. Commissioner Rakers stated his position against metrics tying the City to purchases to obtain goals before they are economically viable. Mr. Thoresen mentioned the resolution passed by Council was geared more towards City operations but this work plan is geared more towards City-wide usage. Commissioner Lawton agreed. Commissioner Gasch suggested requesting DMV records for registered hybrid and electric vehicles in the City.

Commissioner Gasch moved to approve the Renewable Energy Work Plan and present to Common Council for consideration, seconded by Commissioner Lawton. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

3. Discuss No Mow May for 2022

Mr. Thoresen, Public Works Director, outlined the program and how it went in 2021. Mr. Thoresen mentioned having brought the program up for discussion at the internal sustainability team for the City and they discussed the addition of a natural lawn ordinance to allow residents to plant prairie grasses and other plants that are more beneficial for pollinators for a longer period of time. Mr. Thoresen added if the no mow May program goes forward in future years, more work needs to be invested into educating the community about the program. Commissioner Rakers stated his opposition to no mow May and supported a natural lawn ordinance including on City-owned properties. Mr. Thoresen stated the intent would be to include personal and city properties. Commissioner Van Beek stated his experience with no mow May in 2021 as a participating resident and his belief that the program will open dialogue in the future about use of pesticides and allowing natural lawns. Commissioners Van Beek and

Lawton stated their support for offering no mow May in 2022. Alderperson Quigley explained his experience as an Alderperson during no mow May in 2021 and stated his support for a pollinator-benefitting program that extends beyond one month. Mr. Thoresen stated he would bring a resolution forward for the March meeting for no mow May and work with Green Bay on the educational portion and bring forward natural lawn discussion as a future agenda item. Commissioner Gasch stated her experience as a participant in no mow May 2021, provided some educational input on why May and dandelions are important for pollinators, and supported natural lawns.

Discussion only. No action necessary.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
----------------	------------------

4. Discuss Commissioner Gasch's request for Idle Ban Ordinance

Commissioner Gasch outlined her request for an idle limit ordinance in the City, especially around schools for buses and vehicles waiting to pick up students. Commissioner Gasch explained the limit would be five minutes before stationary vehicles would be expected to turn off their vehicles and would be enforced similar to a minor traffic violation (i.e. parking ticket, speeding). The limit would be mostly self-enforced with street signs being installed throughout the city. Commissioner Gasch stated the limit would meet an item on the Green Tier scoresheet and asked for support from members for a community-wide idle limit.

Commissioner Lawton shared his personal experience with a newly purchased car turning off upon fully stopping. Commissioner Lawton expressed concerns over the resident's perception of the regulations and control the City may be seen as trying to have. Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, stated the enforcement will be challenging and believes it would be better as an educational campaign rather than ordinance.

Commissioner Rakers expressed concerns with enforcement and agreed with an educational campaign approach. Mr. Rakers also expressed concerns with an idle limit on construction crews hired to perform City work. Alderperson Quigley agreed with concerns but that something needed to be done about idling. Commissioner Van Beek suggested having an educational campaign for residential vehicles and an ordinance with enforcement for commercial vehicles. Commissioner Gasch mentioned the school near where she resides provides a letter at the start of the year requesting idling be limited and her experience is that an educational campaign does not work and an ordinance would allow the installation of signs around schools and public parks. Alderperson Quigley stated the Commission was split on their views regarding the idle limit and asked how they wish to proceed. Commissioner Gasch stated her intent was for an ordinance to be drafted for review at the next meeting, with it being presented to Common Council if approved. Commissioner Rakers reiterated his opposition to the idle limit and the ability to enforce it. Mr. Thoresen explained the process if the Commission decided in favor of drafting an ordinance. Commissioner Gasch stated she would like to see the drafted ordinance language before the discussion is shut down entirely. Commissioner Van Beek suggested bringing the item back in March to act on whether to draft an ordinance or not. Mr. Thoresen explained going forward that it will be listed for possible action on the March agenda to determine if staff time and resources will be directed towards the creation of a draft ordinance.

Discussion only. No action taken.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

5. Discuss Green Tier Legacy Community Program

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, explained the Green Tier Legacy Community Program and City's participation.

Alderperson Quigley expressed his appreciation for the overview. Commissioner Van Beek asked if the scoresheet would be updated for 2020. Mr. Thoresen stated the scores did not change due to covid, but there should be a slight increase once numbers are entered for 2021.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

6. Discuss 2022 Farmer's Market

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, overviewed the 2021 Sustainability Commission Booth at the Farmers Market and asked if the Commission wants to offer the booth in 2022.

Alderperson Quigley stated he would be willing to volunteer in 2022 and suggested the information be scaled down to a few key topics be available to discuss and display. Mr. Thoresen overviewed how well the Trex plastic bag recycling program has been going and agreed the Farmers Market booth is a good place to start educational campaigns. Commissioner Van Beek suggested creating a Farmers Market subcommittee. Mr. Thoresen outlined how the Commission could move forward with the booth and discussion of subcommittees. Commissioner Lawton explained the booth is meant to educate but also sell the Commissions ideas and plans to the residents of De Pere. Commissioner Rakers mentioned needing a conversation surrounding what worked and what did not work at the booth in 2021 to build on and improve for 2022 and agreed with providing more targeted material. Mr. Thoresen mentioned a few areas for improvement and stated staff would discuss and bring back in March with ideas. Alderperson Quigley suggested having more interactive items in the booth.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

IV. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Thoresen stated he would bring the following forward in March:

No Mow May

Natural Lawns (Allouez, Green Bay, Sun Prairie for reference)

Subcommittees

Idle limit ordinance action

2022 Farmers Markets

V. Adjournment

Commissioner Rakers moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 PM, seconded by Commissioner Van Beek. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Sellenheim