



Sustainability Commission

Regular Meeting

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

Final Minutes

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

5:30 PM

De Pere City Hall Council Chambers

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM by Alderperson Casey Nelson

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Eric Rakers	City Engineer	Present	
Casey Nelson	Alderperson	Present	
Renee Gasch	Commissioner	Present	
Rebecca McKean	Commissioner	Present	
Bill Niedzwiedz	Commissioner	Present	
Larry Garrison	Commissioner	Excused	
Randall Lawton	Commissioner	Present	

Others present:

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works

Betty Sellenheim, Public Works Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary

2. Approval of Sustainability Commission September 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner McKean moved to approve the September 10, 2019 Sustainability Commission meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Gasch.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Rebecca McKean, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Renee Gasch, Commissioner
AYES:	Rakers, Nelson, Gasch, McKean, Niedzwiedz, Lawton
EXCUSED:	Larry Garrison

II. Public Portion

None

III. Action Items

1. Discuss Trex Plastic Bag Recycling Challenge

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, explained this item was being brought forward at the request of Commissioner Gasch to present further information about the Trex plastic bag recycling program. Commissioner Gasch recapped some problems plastic bags cause for recycling facilities and pollution potential. Commissioner Gasch explained the positive outcomes of participating in this program, including: bags being properly disposed of and earning a sitting bench. Commissioner Gasch explained the bench is made from recycled milk and the plastic bags are recycled into patio furniture. A six month collection period would be determined for collection and the goal is to collect 500 pounds of bags (approximately 40,000) to receive a bench. Commissioner Gasch offered a few suggestions for locations to place plastic bag recycling containers and signage. Commissioner Gasch explained staff would need to be able to check the containers periodically, weigh the contents (self-reporting), and haul to Festival Food's in De Pere for transport to Trex. Once the goal is met, Trex would ship a bench for free (no shipping

fees). Commissioner Gasch commended staff on the plastic bag recycling video posted online.

Eric Rakers, City Engineer, asked what type of plastic was accepted. Commissioner Gasch explained there were certain types accepted that were pictured in the included handout. Commissioner Gasch explained the bags would need to be clean/rinsed out before placed in the recycling container. Commissioner McKean questioned if Festival Foods was willing to accept these extra items through the City collections. Commissioner Gasch explained they have already okayed the drop off and Trex is on their hauling locations for their own bags. Mr. Thoresen asked if staff would be expected to inspect the bags for cleanliness. Commissioner Gasch stated they would not need to do that. Alderperson Nelson asked if Festival Foods would be willing to assist the City's cause by adding their bags to ours to achieve the 500 pound goal. Commissioner Gasch was unsure but could ask. Mr. Thoresen asked what happens if we do not meet the goal within the selected six month period. Commissioner Gasch stated the bags could still be sent for recycling but the city would not earn the free bench. Commissioner McKean stated she spoke with facilities at St Norbert College and was told they have collection points on campus for plastic bags and send them to Festival Foods for hauling. Commissioner McKean stated she also spoke with Larry's Piggly Wiggly in De Pere and Piggly Wiggly Midwest in Sheboygan. The De Pere location can be listed as a drop off location for residents but per Piggly Wiggly Midwest, they do not accept from other entities because it costs them money to recycle the bags. Alderperson Nelson asked what Trex would provide. Commissioner Gasch stated they provide the containers and posters. Commissioner Lawton restated the purpose of the program to include how to significantly impact the level of recycling in the City of De Pere and questioned if the additional containers will be enough. Commissioner McKean suggested more education around the "use your own bag" option most grocery store offer with a discount. Commissioner Gasch stated this is a big educational effort and explained there are not many options because the state does not allow the ban of plastic bags. Mr. Thoresen outlined a bit of local plastic bag recycling history.

Commissioner Gasch moved to refer back to staff for recommendation at the next meeting of the Sustainability Commission seconded by Eric Rakers.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Renee Gasch, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Eric Rakers, City Engineer
AYES:	Rakers, Nelson, Gasch, McKean, Niedzwiedz, Lawton
EXCUSED:	Larry Garrison

2. Update on Prohibiting Coal Tar-Based Sealants

Eric Rakers, City Engineer, updated the Commission on the current status of the Coal Tar-based sealant restrictions. Upon further review of the draft ordinance presented to the Commission, staff found it also banned all sealants with 0.1% PAH or more. Staff reached out to Asphalt Seal & Repair, a local company that performs work in the City of De Pere, for information on their product and the proposed PAH ban limit. Asphalt Seal & Repair responded that they would be unable to meet the 0.1% but their product would meet 0.2% PAH with a longer life. Staff reached out to Clean Wisconsin and Asphalt Seal & Repair to justify the use of 0.1% over 0.2% PAH. Staff has not received solid

information to justify 0.1% or a longer life at 0.2% PAH, resulting in no action being taken on this ordinance since the initial discussion at the Commission meeting.

Alderson Nelson asked if there was a maximum amount of PAH in any single product.

Mr. Rakers clarified the products in question are asphalt sealants with PAHs in them.

Alderson Nelson asked if a resolution is reached, if the ordinance will go to Council or back to Sustainability Commission. Mr. Rakers stated he would take it directly to Council.

3. Update on Baseline Assessment

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, updated the Commission on the status of the DNR Green Tier Legacy program for sustainability through the baseline assessment process. The baseline assessment will determine where the City currently stands on sustainable practices. Annually the City submits a report of sustainable practices accomplished and sets action goals. Mr. Thoresen stated City of Appleton is a good source for research on sustainability programs, reports, and initiatives in our area. Commissioner Lawton offered to have Lawton Products Green Tier contact reach out to Mr. Thoresen.

4. Discuss City's Compost Facility

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, outlined the compost facility operations, regulations, and changes through the years. Mr. Thoresen explained with the south bridge corridor in the future, the compost site will need to be relocated or regionalized. Mr. Thoresen offered a few options for regionalization (with Allouez) or relocated (by the Dog Park).

Commissioner Gasch commented that she requested further information in regards to having a food waste drop off site for businesses, such as Festival Foods. Eric Rakers, City Engineer, suggested checking with the DNR regarding food waste disposal and storage and rodents/pests. Commissioner Niedzwiedz asked for per capita compost numbers over time. Mr. Thoresen stated he didn't have that exact volume from the compost facility. Commissioner Gasch asked how often residents request curbside compost pick up. Mr. Thoresen stated only two or three times in almost fifteen years.

5. Discuss Storm Water Education

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, outlined the city's storm water education programs and work with NEWSC (North East Wisconsin Stormwater Consortium). Mr. Thoresen shared a few of the resources available to residents and staff through NEWSC. Eric Rakers, City Engineer, outlined programs available through NEWSC for public and schools and additional educational opportunities used by staff.

Alderson Nelson commented that there are dual benefits for actions such as mulching grass clippings and make good tips to pass along to residents. Commissioner Gasch proposed sidewalk murals around stormwater inlets in downtown areas and was supported by Alderson Nelson, Mr. Rakers and Commissioner Niedzwiedz. Mr. Rakers stated it would be something that would need to be approved through the City Attorney's office. Commissioner Gasch mentioned the Public Art Commission has funds to support the murals/supplies.

6. Discuss Educational Workshops

Alderson Nelson asked for support of monthly or bi-monthly educational workshops for residents. Alderson Nelson suggested topics such as heating and cooling efficiency

and rain barrel workshops, along with getting the word out on social media of programs and incentives available to residents through entities like Focus on Energy.

Commissioner McKean asked about support through Green Tier webinars. Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, was unsure but would look into it. Eric Rakers, City Engineer, stated he was not opposed to the idea of educational workshops but suggested having a trial one and determine based on attendance. Mr. Rakers also suggested adding sustainability and money saving tips to the city newsletter and/or social media.

Aldersperson Nelson supported Mr. Rakers suggestions. Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, mentioned receiving content from WPS that may prove useful and having a good connection with the entity for potential assistance with programs regarding energy efficiency in homes. Staff will work with Aldersperson Nelson regarding scheduling a trial program with WPS for energy efficiency.

IV. Future Agenda Items

None

V. Adjournment

Eric Rakers, City Engineer, moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 PM, seconded by Commissioner Lawton.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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