



Sustainability Commission

Regular Meeting

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

Final Minutes

Tuesday, April 11, 2023

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
Jayne Black	Commissioner	Present	
Cindy Champeau	Commissioner	Present	
Emily Henrigillis	Commissioner	Present	
Randall Lawton	Commissioner	Present	
Eric Rakers	City Engineer	Excused	
Nicole Slavin	Commissioner	Present	
John Quigley	Alderperson	Present	

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director
Betty Sellenheim, Recording Secretary
Megan Schroeder, Public Works Intern
Tony Wachewicz, City Attorney (6:08 PM)

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. Section 6-3(f) DPMC

None

III. Items

1. Approval of the March 14, 2023 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Champeau moved to approve the March 14, 2023 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Henrigillis. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Cindy Champeau, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Emily Henrigillis, Commissioner
AYES:	Black, Champeau, Henrigillis, Lawton, Slavin, Quigley
EXCUSED:	Eric Rakers

2. Farmer's Market Booth Update

Betty Sellenheim, Recording Secretary, provided an update on the 2023 Sustainability Commission Farmers Market Booth. Ms. Sellenheim stated she would follow-up with an email regarding topics for the booth and how to sign up.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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3. Discuss Landfill Alternatives List

Betty Sellenheim, Recording Secretary, provided an update and requested responses from all Commission members by May 1, 2023.

Commissioners Lawton and Slavin provided positive feedback on the content of the list. Commissioner Henrigillis asked to have landscape rocks included.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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4. Discuss Green Schools Day Proclamation

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, shared the Green Schools Day Proclamation that was presented to Commissioner Black by Mayor Boyd. Commissioner Black expressed gratitude and shared how positive of an experience it was. She further added that Superintendents from both school districts were in support of Green Schools Day and that endorsement could assist with the Clean Air Initiative in the schools.

Commissioner Lawton asked how Green Schools Day was being recognized. Commissioner Black mentioned she would be visiting and providing resources and an event would be held at the Kress Library. Commissioner Slavin asked whether the proclamation would be shared publicly. Commissioner Black stated it would be available on the Green Schools Rock webpage. Mr. Thoresen emphasized the partnership between the School Districts, City, and Sustainability Commission. Alderperson Quigley suggested Commissioners publicize on their personal pages and have open discussions with students/faculty on how they are recognizing the day.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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5. Review Sustainability Commission social media page request

Betty Sellenheim, Recording Secretary, provided an update on the possible options for the Commission to post to social media including Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Ms. Sellenheim stated if the Commission wished to proceed, members would be responsible for providing content and would be encouraged to share on their personal pages. Commissioner Henrigillis suggested posting 2-3 times a month and was in favor of a hashtag. Commissioner Black suggested having one post highlight the meeting topics. Commissioner Black asked how comments are handled on City pages. Ms. Sellenheim explained how staff handles comments on their posts. Alderperson Quigley explained that on other Committees and Boards, Alderpersons will often create a summary post of the meeting discussions. Alderperson Quigley offered to do this for the Sustainability Commission. Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, outlined some of the new social media branding that has been implemented throughout the departments. Ms. Sellenheim elaborated on this topic to include cyclical posts that can be repeated during key times of the year, video production, and catchy phrases (Sustainability Saturday). Ms. Sellenheim added the option of having a sustainable themed City logo for branding. The Commission was in favor of having hashtags and a themed logo. Alderperson Quigley asked Commission members to send ideas to staff and if required to set up a schedule for members to sign up to provide post ideas.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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6. Discuss City of De Pere 2022 Green Tier Legacy Communities Annual Report

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, shared and discussed the annual report that was submitted to the Wisconsin DNR by staff for the Green Tier Legacy Communities Program.

Commissioner Lawton asked for additional information about the City's phragmites management plan. Mr. Thoresen explained the City's plan for phragmites mitigation and management. Commissioner Lawton discussed phosphorous content in leaves. Mr. Thoresen explained how the City handles leaves to keep them out of the waterways. Commissioner Henrigillis added that leaves can also create a leaf-tea-soup if water passes over and through them sitting stagnant in an area for a long period (curblines and gutters). Commissioner Slavin suggested this topic be created into a video for public education on leaf collection. Commissioner Lawton asked for assistance regarding No Mow May and how a lawn is impacted being cut after growing for a month. Alderperson Quigley provided information on cutting practices he has seen. Alderperson Quigley also mentioned other communities have switched to Low Mow May, which recommends cutting every other week throughout May. Alderperson Quigley asked if the Commission and City still needed to establish a baseline for energy use. Mr. Thoresen stated that the resolution and work plans did not include percent reductions. Alderperson Quigley asked for clarification on the recycling law. Mr. Thoresen explained that all locations, including residential, commercial, and industrial, are required to recycle based on state law. Mr. Thoresen explained how the City enforces the law for locations within the City limits. Commissioner Lawton praised the work on enacting five new sustainable items on the scoresheet since the City joined Green Tier.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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7. Consider and Possible Action Regarding Revisions Ordinance Sec. 74-10. Noxious Weeds and Planned Natural Landscape Areas*

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, outlined the modifications made to current City ordinance to allow for planned natural landscape plantings. Mr. Thoresen added that throughout other inspections, it has been noticed that there are many properties that currently have planted natural areas. These locations have been allowed to remain, provided they did not contain any noxious weeds as provided in the ordinance. Commissioner Henrigillis supported allowing in both front and back yards. Commissioner Lawton asked for clarification on the fines associated with not following the ordinance. Mr. Thoresen explained that in most cases, the City does not fine the property, but will bill for services rendered if the City contractor needs to cut the lawn. Mr. Thoresen stated that the Weed Commissioner does have the ability to cite a property, but the cost of abatement can be a larger expense than the citation. Commissioner Black added that residents are sent a letter of warning and allowed to correct on their own prior to City intervention.

Alderperson Quigley moved to approve the revisions to Ordinance Sec. 74-10 Noxious Weeds and Planned Natural Landscape Areas, seconded by Commissioner Slavin.

Alderperson Quigley suggested noxious weed identification as a topic for the Farmers Market booth. Other commissioners supported this suggestion. Commissioner Slavin asked whether enacting these changes will require educational campaigns or other forms of awareness. Mr. Thoresen explained that it will not cause negative impacts, but suggested having an educational campaign to inform the public of this new opportunity. Alderperson Quigley clarified the limits of a lot that could be planted for natural landscape. Mr. Thoresen stated corner lots are required to maintain a vision triangle and lots that are not on a corner can be planted fully except the right of way and three feet off of all property lines.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	John Quigley, Alderperson
SECONDER:	Nicole Slavin, Commissioner
AYES:	Black, Champeau, Henrigillis, Lawton, Slavin, Quigley
EXCUSED:	Eric Rakers

8. Discuss 2024 Sustainability Project Funding

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, requested that members begin thinking about projects they want to work on that would require funding sources that staff would present during the budget process that begins in July.

RESULT:	NO ACTION
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9. Discuss Clean Air Initiative Work Plan

Alderperson Quigley informed the Commission that Council had approved the draft work plan and stated the next step is to work on implementation. Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, stated this agenda item would return for discussion in May with the goal of having a plan in place prior to the new school year starting in fall. Commissioner Slavin volunteered to organize a discussion outside of the meeting.

RESULT:	NO ACTION
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IV. Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Henrigillis requested a discussion of water quality credit trading. Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, recapped the items staff will bring back for further discussion:

1. Clean Air Initiative Work Plan
2. Sustainability Project Funding

V. Adjournment

Commissioner Henrigillis moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 PM, seconded by Commissioner Lawton. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Sellenheim