



Sustainability Commission

Regular Meeting

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

Final Minutes

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

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 Shana Defnet Ledvina

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Larry Garrison	Commissioner	Late	5:31 PM
Renee Gasch	Commissioner	Late	5:45 PM
Randall Lawton	Commissioner	Remote	
Shana Defnet Ledvina	Alderperson	Remote	
Rebecca McKean	Commissioner	Remote	
Bill Niedzwiedz	Commissioner	Remote	
Eric Rakers	City Engineer	Remote	

Others present:

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works (remote)

Betty Sellenheim, recording secretary (remote)

II. Action Items

1. Approval of the November 10, 2020 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

Alderperson Ledvina moved to approve the November 10, 2020 Sustainability Commission meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Rakers. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Shana Defnet Ledvina, Alderperson
SECONDER:	Eric Rakers, City Engineer
AYES:	Garrison, Lawton, Defnet Ledvina, McKean, Niedzwiedz, Rakers
ABSENT:	Renee Gasch

2. Consider and Possible Action 2021 Baseline Assessment Projects*

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, recapped the history of this items discussion through the commission and stated the plan is to recommend projects for council approval after tonight's meeting. Mr. Thoresen explained the baseline assessment, projects, and Green Tier. Mr. Thoresen suggested the commission work on the following projects for 2021 based on past discussions:

1. Calculate annual government fleet use of motor fuels, in gallons of petroleum and biofuels, beginning with the fifth year before entering the program
2. Inventory wetlands and ensure no net annual loss
3. Inventory all paved surfaces (e.g. by GIS mapping), and develop a plan for reduction
4. League of American Bicyclists certification
5. Certification as Bird City Wisconsin Community

Commissioner Niedzwiedz requested additional information regarding the classification of wetlands. Mr. Thoresen stated the plan would be to use Brown County mapping which does not classify by type. Commissioner McKean shared the information she had obtained regarding the mapping available for the City and explained it would be a good

student project to create a more detailed map. Commissioner Rakers expressed his support of the projects and concern with the commitment required to complete the proposed projects for 2021 and with the wetland inventory mapping. Commissioner Lawton expressed concerns of quality versus quantity of wetlands. Mr. Thoresen stated he has a few items he will be reaching out to the DNR for clarification. Commissioner Niedzwiedz explained the definition of a wetland. Mr. Thoresen expressed from the definition, much of the City could be considered a wetland and he planned to clarify with the DNR. Alderperson Ledvina asked if the wetland item should not be recommended to Council until more questions were answered. Commissioners Rakers and McKean agreed with removing that item from the recommendation until clarified. Alderperson Ledvina requested to know what staff or departments would be asked to work on each item once approved by Council. Mr. Thoresen stated public works staff will compile the fuel calculations, staff will work with SNC and Commissioner McKean for mapping the paved surfaces (staff has questions for DNR with this item as well), and staff will work on the certifications. Alderperson Ledvina asked if the paved surfaces baseline inventory could be started and a plan for reduction could come after all questions had been clarified by DNR. Mr. Thoresen stated it could be started as it could take considerable time to complete. Commissioner McKean stated she had spoken with Bill Boyle, GIS Manager, regarding mapping layers currently available for paved surfaces.

Commissioner Rakers moved to recommend items 1, 3, 4 & 5 to Council for approval, seconded by Commissioner Gasch. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

3. Discuss Renewable Energy Work Plan

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, updated the Commission on the Renewable Energy Work Plan and City of Green Bay Work Plan. Mr. Thoresen stated the internal staff sustainability team met and discussed the work plan and suggested a few modifications as outlined in the packet. The internal sustainability team expressed their concerns with the commission being too focused on the internal operations and not enough on the community as intended when established. Commissioner McKean updated the commission members on the conversation she had with John Arendt from the Green Bay Sustainability Commission. Mr. Thoresen stated he would start reaching out to obtain usage information from WPS and departments and provide an update at the March meeting. Mr. Thoresen also suggested that commission members review the Green Bay plan along with the changes drafted by Commissioner McKean to effectively work towards pulling the plan together at the next scheduled meeting.

Discussion only. No action necessary.

III. Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Gasch expressed interest in discussing the group buy solar program at the next meeting and would let staff know if she had information to present.

IV. Adjournment

Commissioner Lawton moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 PM, seconded by Commissioner Gasch. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Sellenheim