



Sustainability Commission

Regular Meeting

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

Agenda

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

5:30 PM

GoToMeeting

Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.84, Notice is hereby given to the public that a meeting of the **Sustainability Commission** of the City of De Pere will be held on **March 9, 2021** at **5:30 PM**.

Due to the current public health emergency, the meeting will be held electronically and the public may attend this meeting electronically or telephonically by accessing either:

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://www.gotomeet.me/DePere>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States (Toll Free): [1 866 899 4679](tel:18668994679)

United States: [+1 \(312\) 757-3117](tel:+13127573117)

Access Code: 154-883-285

THIS MEETING WILL NOT BE HELD IN PERSON.

This meeting may also be rebroadcast on Spectrum Cable Channel 4 and AT&T U-verse Channel 99 throughout the week and available on demand at <http://deperecitywi.igmp2.com/>.

- I. Call to Order
 - 1. Roll Call
- II. Action Items
 - 1. Approval of the December 8, 2020 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes
 - 2. Discuss Video Tutorial About Solar Energy & Possible Group Buy Program
 - 3. Discuss Renewable Energy Work Plan
- III. Future Agenda Items
- IV. Adjournment

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
Eland Electric Corporation



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

Request For Sustainability Commission Action

MEETING DATE: March 9, 2021

DEPARTMENT: Sustainability Commission

FROM: Betty Sellenheim

SUBJECT: Approval of the December 8, 2020 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

ATTACHMENTS:

- 2020 1208 Sustainability Draft Minutes (PDF)



Sustainability Commission

Regular Meeting

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

Draft Minutes

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

5:30 PM

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



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

Request For Sustainability Commission Action

MEETING DATE: March 9, 2021

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

FROM: Scott Thoresen

SUBJECT: Discuss Video Tutorial About Solar Energy & Possible Group Buy Program

Commissioner Gasch has requested the commission consider video tutorial about solar energy & possible group buy program (See attached email).

ATTACHMENTS:

- Email Regarding Video Tutorial About Solar Energy & Possible Buy Back Program (PDF)

From: Renee Gasch <renee.gasch@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 11:09 AM
To: Scott Thoresen; Betty Sellenheim
Subject: Solar Tutorial Report for Sustainability Packet

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Scott,

I'm resending this text to include in the Sustainability Packet. Based on our conversation, I'd frame this essentially as a report out of findings so far, with more to come at a presentation in June.

Thanks for helping think through this!

Renee Gasch

Report: Video Tutorial about Solar Energy & Possible Group Buy

Eland Electric

Contact: Jesse Michalski
920-609-3546
jessemi@elandelectric.com

Background:

Eland Electric is a Green Bay-based solar installer, one of the closest in the region. They install solar year round, with fall being their peak period. In addition, Jesse provides regular education about how solar works.

Eland Electric is partnering with Door County Solar, launched by a coalition of residents, to lead a group buy program. The launch of the program was delayed in Spring 2020 when Covid hit, but Jesse said in hindsight it could have continued. Their business has been steady through the pandemic. Also, the federal government voted in December 2020 to extend the 26% rebate for two more years, so they expect business to stay steady.

To promote sign-ups for the Door County group buy, they are doing postcard mailers to every resident, paid Facebook promotion, and a website where people sign up. Jesse has been invited to the June 8th meeting to present more information on the project. In the meantime, you can follow the project at www.doorcountysolar.com and facebook.com/doorcountysolar.

Jesse is also working with the solar vendor to create a series of educational videos for Door County Solar. Each is about five minutes long, and will be focused on:

1. How does solar work?
2. Where can it be installed?
3. How does it work with utility supply?
4. Will it need batteries?
5. What is net metering?
6. How much maintenance is required?
7. What are the incentives?

Proposal for June 8th Sustainability Commission Meeting:

Commissioner Gasch would like to propose at the June 8th meeting that the Sustainability Commission partner with Eland Electric to create a 10-minute introductory video tutorial for residents about how solar works and where it can be installed.

How would it work? Jesse would supply us the first two videos he is making for Door County Solar and we can repackage it as a 10 minute video branded with a De Pere logo. We can also add some local footage of De Pere installations. Jesse has access to a drone and can take footage at an install they did at Krause Financial located at 1234 Enterprise Drive—this commercial install has a pitched roof like a residential install. He can also contact some homeowners to supply footage of their home systems as well.

At the June 8th group buy, Jesse can provide an overview to the Commission, and we can discuss if we want to pursue the opportunity for residents to sign up for a solar group buy.



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

Request For Sustainability Commission Action

MEETING DATE: March 9, 2021

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

FROM: Scott Thoresen

SUBJECT: Discuss Renewable Energy Work Plan

At the last Sustainability Commission meeting, the Commission continued discussion on creating a renewable energy work plan similar to the City of Green Bay. Discussion was had on the need to establish a baseline in order to move forward with the work plan. Staff contacted WPS in regards as to what it would take to establish a baseline for energy use for electric and gas. WPS informed staff they could possibly look at our accounts if we knew what accounts we wanted history on. It took some time to put together a list of all the City's WPS accounts and these were submitted to WPS on March 3rd. WPS is now looking into what information they have and how far back they can go. Staff has requested information back to 2015 so we can see what type of energy savings we have since we started implementing sustainable initiatives such as the green roof on City Hall.

In addition, the commissioners were supposed to review the City of Green Bay's work plan along with the changes drafted by Commissioner McKean so the Commission can continue to work on putting the renewable energy work plan together.