



Sustainability Commission

Regular Meeting

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

Final Minutes

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

5:30 PM

GoToMeeting

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 PM by Alderperson Shana Defnet Ledvina

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

Others present:

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works

Betty Sellenheim, Recording Secretary

II. Action Items

1. Approval of the December 8, 2020 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

Alderperson Ledvina moved to approve the December 8, 2020 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Gasch. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Shana Defnet Ledvina, Alderperson
SECONDER:	Renee Gasch, Commissioner
AYES:	Renee Gasch, Shana Defnet Ledvina, Rebecca McKean, Eric Rakers
ABSENT:	Randall Lawton
EXCUSED:	Larry Garrison, Bill Niedzwiedz

2. Discuss Video Tutorial About Solar Energy & Possible Group Buy Program

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, introduced the request from Commissioner Gasch regarding a video tutorial about solar energy and possible group buy program for solar panels.

Commissioner Gasch outlined her plans for a presentation by Eland Electric regarding solar panels and group buy programs and an introductory educational video tutorial (mirrored off a video created by Eland for Door County). Commissioner Gasch mentioned the Door County solar group buy program was linked in the email included in the packet.

Commissioner McKean asked for clarification on the content of the video tutorial. Commissioner Gasch explained the video tutorial would be focused on individual homeowners and the questions they may have about solar energy and getting started. Commissioner McKean asked if there was a certain number of households needed in order to start the group buy program. Commissioner Gasch stated there was not a

particular number but the savings would increase if there were more households signed up and it would not have to be limited to De Pere residents. Commissioner Gasch mentioned the permitting is usually time consuming and the City could help by setting up a streamlined permitting process. Alderperson Ledvina asked if the next meeting could be advertised on Facebook to raise interest and awareness in the presentation. Mr. Thoresen stated he would check into it with the City Administrator and connect with Commissioner Gasch if additional information is needed. Commissioner Rakers asked about selling back power that is unused/over-generated. Commissioner Gasch stated she believed Wisconsin had net metering. Commissioner Rakers requested staff research the permitting process before the next meeting and know how time consuming it is and/or how to streamline it. Commissioner Rakers also requested staff discuss with the City Attorney any implications regarding the use of Eland's product and adding the City logo and/or using Eland without consulting other companies.

Discussion only. No action required.

RESULT:	NO ACTION
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3. Discuss Renewable Energy Work Plan

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, updated the Commission on the Renewable Energy Plan, including: obtaining electric and gas baseline information from Wisconsin Public Service for City usage.

Commissioner McKean shared information she had learned from discussions with Green Bay Sustainability Commissioners.

Mr. Thoresen outlined the process of having the renewable energy work plan approved. Alderperson Ledvina asked if internal staff sustainability group approval was required as part of the process. Mr. Thoresen stated it would still be part of the process.

Mr. Thoresen reminded the commission of the renewable energy work plan edits and asked for feedback prior to the June meeting on the changes provided by Commissioner McKean. Alderperson Ledvina asked Mr. Thoresen to resend the documents to be reviewed.

RESULT:	NO ACTION
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III. Future Agenda Items

Commissioner McKean asked to provide an update on Paved Surfaces Project.
Commissioner Rakers asked the City to research and promote bike/walk to work options or event.
Commissioner Gasch asked to provide information on Appleton's No-Mow May.

IV. Adjournment

Commissioner Rakers moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 PM, seconded by Alderperson Ledvina. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Sellenheim