



Sustainability Commission

Regular Meeting

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

Final Minutes

Tuesday, February 14, 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	Excused	
Emily Henrigillis	Commissioner	Present	
Randall Lawton	Commissioner	Present	
Eric Rakers	City Engineer	Present	
Nicole Slavin	Commissioner	Present	
John Quigley	Alderperson	Present	

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director
Betty Sellenheim, Recording Secretary
James Boyd, Mayor
Megan Schroeder, Public Works Intern

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 January 10, 2023 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Rakers moved to approve the February 14, 2023 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Lawton. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

2. Mayoral Address of Committee

Mayor Boyd addressed the Commission and thanked members for their service.

Alderperson Quigley verified with Mayor Boyd the Commission purpose to provide sustainable opportunities and ideas to the community and not for the purpose of City operations. Mayor Boyd stated that was correct. Commissioner Lawton provided information regarding the actions necessary to prepare for climate change of the future. Mayor Boyd stated he would discuss sustainability at a state level with Urban Alliance in late February. Commissioner Henrigillis asked if the City has worked with EPA for assistance and direction or on projects. Mayor Boyd stated EPA generally works at County and State level.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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3. Sustainability Commission Introductions

Members and staff introduced themselves along with their interest in sustainability and what they wish to accomplish as a member of the Commission.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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4. Consider and Possible Action for Sustainability Commission Vice - Chairperson

Commissioner Black nominated herself as Vice Chairperson, Commissioner Slavin seconded. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
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MOVER:	Jayne Black, Commissioner
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SECONDER:	Nicole Slavin, Commissioner
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AYES:	Black, Henrigillis, Lawton, Rakers, Slavin, Quigley
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EXCUSED:	Cindy Champeau
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5. Consider and Possible Action for 2023 No Mow May*

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, summarized No Mow May and the possible third year of offering this program to residents.

Commissioner Henrigillis asked when the ordinance enforcement resumes. Mr. Thoresen explained lawns need to begin being mowed again June 1. Mr. Thoresen added that properties are inspected beginning June 1 for compliance if staff received complaints regarding long grass. Betty Sellenheim, recording secretary, clarified that properties are given to the end of the day June 1 to mow their lawn and get back within ordinance compliance and inspections would begin June 2.

Commissioner Henrigillis moved to approve the resolution to offer No Mow May in 2023, seconded by Alderperson Quigley.

Commissioner Lawton shared his experience of attempting to get his neighborhood lawncare company to participate in No Mow May. Commissioner Slavin suggested providing additional education surrounding No Mow May. Commissioner Henrigillis provided additional information regarding why No Mow May is important to pollinators. Commissioner Rakers stated his position against No Mow May and preference for native planting opportunities. Alderperson Quigley requested that commission members share City Facebook posts, especially as they relate to Commission items. Ms. Sellenheim added that staff worked on a No Mow May promo video to use going forward and that many of the research statistics for No Mow May are on the City webpage for reference in discussions.

Upon vote, the motion passed 5-1 with Commissioner Rakers voting no.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [5 TO 1]
MOVER:	Emily Henrigillis, Commissioner
SECONDER:	John Quigley, Alderperson
AYES:	Black, Henrigillis, Lawton, Slavin, Quigley
NAYS:	Eric Rakers
EXCUSED:	Cindy Champeau

6. Consider and Possible Action Regarding Planned Natural Landscape Areas*

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, explained what planned natural landscapes are and that De Pere plans to model an ordinance and plan submission process off Green Bay. Mr. Thoresen explained the process of plan submission and review, prior to approval for planting. City would still inspect complaints for noxious weeds or long grasses.

Commissioner Rakers moved to recommend Planned Natural Landscape Areas to Council for approval, seconded by Commissioner Slavin.

Commissioner Henrigillis shared her experience working through the Green Bay process. Commissioner Henrigillis suggested language be included for selecting plants that cover the full season for blooming (early spring to late fall). Commissioner Rakers asked the process for a resident if the ordinance moves forward. Mr. Thoresen outlined the process including applying for a permit and submission of a plan for review, prior to planting. Mr. Rakers added that native plantings are often better at minimizing stormwater erosion. Commissioner Henrigillis asked if properties would be allowed to plant their terrace in native plantings. Mr. Thoresen stated that would not be allowed. Alderperson Quigley shared concerns about this taxing staff resources. Mr. Thoresen stated he believed it would start small and gradually increase and not overwhelm staff. Alderperson Quigley asked if the application came with a fee. Mr. Thoresen stated that Council could decide to impose an application fee and added that some communities have a fee and others do not. Commissioner Henrigillis suggested yard tours as part of an educational component and to help other residents generate ideas for their own sites.

Upon vote, the motion passed with 5 votes in favor and 1 abstention.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [5 TO 0]
MOVER:	Eric Rakers, City Engineer
SECONDER:	Nicole Slavin, Commissioner
AYES:	Black, Lawton, Rakers, Slavin, Quigley
ABSTAIN:	Emily Henrigillis
EXCUSED:	Cindy Champeau

7. Idle Limit Program Update

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, requested Commissioner Rakers provide an update on this item. Commissioner Rakers outlined the program approach to present to Council for consideration including key reasons why an idle limit is important, target locations, timeline for roll-out and how the Commission plans to disseminate information. Mr. Rakers included that members would research other programs and customize the concepts for De Pere. Mr. Thoresen suggested presenting a program draft in March for recommendation to Council. Mr. Thoresen offered to provide the memo and

agenda item to move forward to Council for consideration outlining the history of the idle limit from an ordinance to a resolution to an educational campaign and outline some of the key points of the campaign.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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8. Consider and Possible Action on 2023 Work Plan*

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, discussed the information included in the agenda packet with regards to different work plan tasks discussed for completion by the Commission. Included in the packet were the applications for League of American Bicyclists and Certification as Bird City Wisconsin Community. Mr. Thoresen outlined some of the work that these tasks would entail to complete. Mr. Thoresen mentioned the new items requested by Commissioners to work on. Mr. Thoresen suggested Commission members decide the topics they are most interested in completing and mentioned that some topics that were previously selected from the Green Tier Scoresheet, are no longer included moving forward with the new scoresheet. Mr. Thoresen added that does not mean they are not worthy items, it just prevents the City from receiving credit for them. Alderperson Quigley suggested the Commission work on accomplishing parts of the application process for Bird City, such as the World Migratory Bird Day event, and have community buy-in prior to applying. Commissioner Rakers stated that he had originally request the League of American Bicyclists Certification and believes the efforts and energy can be better utilized elsewhere and agreed to have that item dismissed from the list of tasks. Alderperson Quigley suggested there might be a community group that would want to take on that task of applying. Commissioner Slavin provided her professional experience with similar applications and agreed that there are groups willing to take on that work.

RESULT:	NO ACTION
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IV. Future Agenda Items

V. Adjournment

Commissioner Lawton moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 PM, seconded by Alderperson Quigley. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Sellenheim