



Sustainability Commission

Regular Meeting

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

Final Minutes

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

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	Excused	
Emily Henrigillis	Commissioner	Present	
Randall Lawton	Commissioner	Excused	
Nicole Slavin	Commissioner	Present	
Rachel Weber	Commissioner	Present	
John Quigley	Alderperson	Present	
Hope Dragseth	Teen Advisor	Present	

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer
Betty Marovich, Recording Secretary
Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works

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 9, 2024 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Slavin moved to approve the January 9, 2024 Sustainability Commission meeting minutes, seconded by Alderperson Quigley. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Nicole Slavin, Commissioner
SECONDER:	John Quigley, Alderperson
AYES:	Emily Henrigillis, Nicole Slavin, Rachel Weber, John Quigley
EXCUSED:	Jayne Black, Randall Lawton

2. Clean Air Initiative update

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, stated that staff had forwarded the newsletter on to the school district superintendents for comments and review and will forward to school principals upon approval from the superintendents. Mr. Kuffel asked the Commissioners if there were any other updates or comments regarding the Clean Air Initiative.

Alderperson Quigley asked when the newsletter was provided for review and if a deadline had been provided. Mr. Kuffel stated he had not included a deadline and had gotten the newsletter to the superintendents the week before. Alderperson Quigley suggested following up if staff did not hear back in a timely manner. Mr. Kuffel said he would do that and include Alderperson Quigley on the exchange.

Discussion only. No action.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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3. Discussion regarding the current objectives of the Sustainability Commission

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, updated the Commission on the current projects staff is working on and prioritizing.

Alderson Quigley provided background on the Clean Energy Work Plan and highlighted a few key points. Alderson Quigley pointed out that the City has an internal Sustainability Team for City operations and asked Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, who was on the team. Mr. Thoresen stated the team consisted of himself, Chase Kuffel, Betty Marovich, Larry Delo, Marty Kosobucki, Jeremy Muraski, Peter Schleinz, Andrew Pantzlaff, and Steve Massey. Alderson Quigley stated he wished to provide this update to clear up confusion from the January meeting and would have the item back on the agenda for the March meeting to discuss next steps for moving the plan forward. Advisor Dragseth asked what the next steps may be for the approved work plan. Alderson Quigley outlined two options. Option one was to set up a subgroup to work on next steps/approach to the follow up on the plan. Alderson Quigley stated if working through the plan would require funding or volunteer hours, the Commission could work on committing people for volunteer hours and work with staff to determine or obtain funding. Option two would be to work on a revision to the work plan that would be more specific and tangible. Commissioner Henrigillis asked about the Green Tier Legacy Community Program as listed in the approved work plan. Mr. Kuffel stated that he had recently attended a Green Tier meeting and they are still active as an organization and requesting participants, such as De Pere, to resubmit using their new application. Mr. Thoresen explained that the Green Tier program has a new scoresheet that is more measurable and participant communities are asked to complete the new scoresheet for establishing a new baseline of sustainable practices. Mr. Thoresen added that Green Tier meets quarterly and staff brings forward and will continue to bring forward topics that are discussed at the meetings. Alderson Quigley stated that he had been under the impression that the scoresheet would link to funding but recent discussions at the state level have included defunding the program. Mr. Thoresen added that Green Tier is also available for private entities, but is unaware of funding issues. Commissioner Henrigillis asked Alderson Quigley what he would like to see the City prioritize. Alderson Quigley expressed interest in creating a more bike friendly community, creating an app that allows residents to document their sustainable actions and possibly create a friendly competition between the districts. Alderson Quigley stated there were lots of great areas to work, but the trick will be focusing on a few to execute them well. Mr. Thoresen stated that the work plan is a huge and expensive undertaking and that there are many smaller projects that can be worked on for the community that still make an impact. Mr. Thoresen reminded that staff time is limited and De Pere does not have dedicated staff for sustainability. Commissioner Weber expressed concerns over the massive undertaking of some of the items in the work plan. Alderson Quigley agreed and stated De Pere should work with other communities that have been through the steps to better gauge the process. Advisor Dragseth offered to reach out to individuals and groups that have been through the process. Mr. Kuffel added that a lot of the work comes from a consultant that would need to be budgeted.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

4. Discussion regarding the liability concerns for stormwater art project

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, provided background on the stormwater art project and explained some concerns the City liability insurance company had regarding the project. Mr. Kuffel stated that stencils could be approved and added that the City currently has messages on the storm sewer structures for drainage.

Commissioner Henrigillis provided an update to the project including potential locations, conversations with NEWSC (Northeast Wisconsin Stormwater Consortium) regarding their focus on De Pere for 2024, their experience with the stencil paint, and that a project such as this would be good for the MS4 permit the City is required to complete annually. Commissioner Weber added that Sweet Water has a stormwater week in September which may be a good time to promote stormwater projects. Commissioner Henrigillis agreed and stated that Sweet Water and NEWSC do similar work. Commissioner Henrigillis suggested an "adopt a storm drain" program in conjunction, which residents would sign up for and clear the debris (grass, leaves, trash, etc) from the drain grates they adopt. Alderperson Quigley asked if the art project can still move forward if the concerns of the insurer are avoided. Mr. Kuffel explained a few options that could allow the program to proceed including location choices, use of non-permanent materials such as chalk, and having another organization run the program rather than the City Commission. Alderperson Quigley provided a few other considerations for moving the program forwarded. Alderperson Quigley asked Commissioner Henrigillis if she had an idea how to acquire artists to complete the work. Commissioner Henrigillis stated the NEWSC suggested offering the contest City wide, which takes the onus off the teachers and schools. Alderperson Quigley stated that it could be run similar to the City photo contest. Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, added that if it was a school competition, the murals could be drawn on the stormwater structures on school grounds. Commissioner Slavin provided her support of the stormwater art and adopt a storm drain programs. Betty Marovich, Recording Secretary, added that Green Bay has an adopt a storm drain program that could be mimicked and offered to create an online form for residents to complete if the Commission moves in that direction. Mrs. Marovich also added that content had been reviewed recently for social media that included stormwater, cleaning inlets, keeping leaves out of the street, and chemical/salt use and these topics would be getting rolled out on the City Facebook pages in the near future. Commissioner Henrigillis offered to be the main contact for stormwater projects in the Commission.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

5. Sustainable project updates

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, explained a recently completed project through the Engineering Department to install a storm water detention pond near the Fox River Trail between Fulton and Franklin Streets.

Commissioner Slavin suggested highlighting this project on social media. Commissioner Henrigillis asked what species were planted around it. Mr. Kuffel stated it was a grass mix per DNR.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

6. Consideration and possible action regarding the frequency of virtual meetings for the Sustainability Commission

Alderson Quigley explained his request to include virtual only meetings periodically, approximately once per quarter based on agenda memo. Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, suggested that staff could reach out prior to the meeting, based on content, to get reactions from Commission members on having the meeting be virtual. Betty Marovich, Recording Secretary, stated that it would not need to be a designated month of each quarter but could be based on agenda content.

Alderson Quigley moved to have a goal of offering one virtual only meeting per quarter, based on content, seconded by Commissioner Henrigillis. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**MOVER:** John Quigley, Alderson**SECONDER:** Emily Henrigillis, Commissioner**AYES:** Emily Henrigillis, Nicole Slavin, Rachel Weber, John Quigley**EXCUSED:** Jayne Black, Randall Lawton

IV. Future Agenda Items

None

V. Adjournment

Alderson Quigley moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:11 PM, seconded by Commissioner Slavin. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Marovich