



Sustainability Commission

Special Meeting

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

Final Minutes

Tuesday, November 10, 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	Excused	
Renee Gasch	Commissioner	Remote	
Randall Lawton	Commissioner	Absent	
Shana Defnet Ledvina	Alderperson	Remote	
Rebecca McKean	Commissioner	Remote	
Bill Niedzwiedz	Commissioner	Absent	
Eric Rakers	City Engineer	Remote	

Others present:

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director (Remote)

Betty Sellenheim, Recording Secretary/Public Works Administrative Assistant (Remote)

II. Action Items

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

Alderperson Ledvina moved to approve the September 8, 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:	Renee Gasch, Shana Defnet Ledvina, Rebecca McKean, Eric Rakers
ABSENT:	Randall Lawton, Bill Niedzwiedz
EXCUSED:	Larry Garrison

2. Discuss Future Sustainability Video Tutorial Ideas

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, asked Commissioner Gasch to present updates and ideas for future video tutorials. Commissioner Gasch updated the commission on her ideas for future videos including: zero waste cooking, solar panels, and backyard composting. Commissioner Rakers suggested contacting the Wisconsin DNR for additional information about backyard composting. Alderperson Ledvina suggested also checking with the UW-Extension. Commissioner Gasch commented on adding a group buy option during the solar panel discussion. Commissioner Gasch asked the possibility of a Sustainability webpage. Commissioner McKean suggested a dedicated Facebook page for sustainability. Mr. Thoresen stated he would check with the Legal Department.

Discussion item only. No action necessary.

3. Consider Trex Plastic Bench Color

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, explained the Commission had earned a bench from Trex for plastic bag recycling and staff needed to know what color to order. Mr.

Thoresen stated the City is eligible to collect plastic bags and films to obtain additional benches each six months. Alderperson Ledvina asked where the bench would be placed. Mr. Thoresen stated the location had not been determined. Commissioner Rakers commented the color could be dependent on location. Alderperson Ledvina and Commissioner McKean suggested a plaque or sign that explained how the bench was obtained. Mr. Thoresen stated he would work with Don Melichar, Park Superintendent/Forester, to choose location and color. All commissioners were in agreeance.

Alderperson Ledvina moved to recommend color selection to the Parks Department, 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, Bill Niedzwiedz
EXCUSED:	Larry Garrison

4. Discuss Renewable Energy Work Plan

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, recapped the history of the work plan for the Sustainability Commission. Mr. Thoresen outlined information received from UW-Green Bay and City of Green Bay Sustainability member, John Arendt. Commissioner McKean questioned information received from Mr. Arendt and Mr. Hoffmeister regarding a resolution versus work plan approach to clean/renewable energy. Mr. Thoresen explained his understanding of the information received from Green Bay. Commissioner Gasch compared the work plan and resolution to line items in the sustainability score sheet for Green Tier and stated her original thought had been city-operations and to work toward community-wide implementation. Commissioner Gasch asked staff about collaborating with the staff sustainability team for establishing a baseline and implementing the work plan. Mr. Thoresen offered to discuss with the staff sustainability team and bring back to commission. Commissioner Rakers explained concerns with setting dates and the implications it may have on tax payers. Mr. Thoresen explained the City of Green Bay process of obtaining the baseline and carbon footprint reduction. Commissioner Gasch asked about hybrid vehicles. Mr. Thoresen stated the City does have a hybrid vehicle in its fleet and also CNG fueled vehicles. Commissioner McKean asked for suggestions on changes to the work plan for moving forward to cover the topics being discussed. Mr. Thoresen suggested bringing the work plan to the internal sustainability team to review and return to the commission. Commissioner McKean asked to start the baseline assessment. Mr. Thoresen offered to send contact information and resources to Commissioner McKean to review. Agenda topic will be brought back as a discussion item in the December 2020 meeting.

Discussion item only. No action necessary.

5. Discuss Baseline Assessment Projects

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, explained the Green Tier program and ranked spreadsheet of interested topics for future work. Mr. Thoresen suggested selecting approximately three items to select to work on for recommendation to Common Council.

Commissioner McKean updated the commission on the three GIS projects that she reviewed with St. Norbert College staff. Commissioner Rakers questioned the potential complexity of reducing paved surfaces. Mr. Thoresen explained his understanding of the scoresheet item and stated staff could contact Wisconsin DNR for further clarification. Commissioner Rakers expressed interest in the paved surface mapping and suggested issues that may arise when mapping wetlands. Commissioner Rakers expressed interest in applying for League of American Bicyclists Certification. Commissioner Gasch expressed interest in group buy solar panels and requested a conversation regarding banning idling. Mr. Thoresen requested additional information from Commissioner Gasch regarding the group buy and explained the current policies on idling. Commissioner Gasch suggested contact with schools regarding banning idling while waiting to pick up students. Mr. Thoresen recapped the topics of interest and suggested completing item #1, as the easiest one for staff to complete for points. Commissioners were in agreeance. Alderperson Ledvina expressed interest in planting trees in all new developments. Mr. Thoresen explained internal reluctance of this item. Alderperson Ledvina asked for commission approval of the items to be moved forward for discussion. All members were in agreeance. Mr. Thoresen stated he will bring back to the December meeting for final review and approval.

Discussion item only. No action necessary.

III. Future Agenda Items

None

IV. Adjournment

Commissioner Gasch moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 PM, seconded by Commissioner Rakers.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Sellenheim