



# Sustainability Commission

Regular Meeting

Minutes

335 South Broadway  
De Pere, WI 54115  
[www.deperewi.gov](http://www.deperewi.gov)

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Tuesday, January 13, 2026

5:30 PM

Council Chambers/Virtual

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I. Call to Order

1. Roll Call

Commissioner Henrigillis called the January 13, 2026 meeting of the Sustainability Commission to order at 5:28 PM.

**Present:** Emily Henrigillis, Randall Lawton, Rachel Leonard, Casey Nelson, Jonie Panick, Anna Metzler

**Absent:**

**Excused:** Nicole Slavin, Carmen Van Schyndel

Others Present:

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer

Natalie Markelz, Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary

II. Public Comment on Matters not on the Agenda. Comments made during the public comment period shall pertain only to matters under the jurisdiction of the Sustainability Commission. §6-3(f) DPMC

None.

III. Items

1. Approval of the November 11, 2025 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

Aldersperson Nelson moved to approve the November 11, 2025 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Lawton. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

<b>RESULT:</b> Passed (UNANIMOUS)
<b>MOVER:</b> Casey Nelson
<b>SECONDER:</b> Randall Lawton
<b>AYES:</b> Emily Henrigillis, Randall Lawton, Rachel Leonard, Casey Nelson, Jonie Panick
<b>EXCUSED:</b> Nicole Slavin, Carmen Van Schyndel

2. Discussion on Recent Public Works Awards

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, explains that the Public Works Department was recognized by two different entities. The first is a Recycling Excellence Award from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources which due to improvements on streamlining recycling and education to the public. The second award is the Wisconsin Snow & Ice Control Award from the American Public Works Association. This award is broken up by different community sizes, which we won for populations

greater than 25,000 residents. We will be going for the National Award.

No action necessary. Discussion only.

### 3. Consideration and Possible Action on Reid Street Banner Initiative Advertising

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, talked about the previous Grinch idea for salt control at prior meetings and he recently discussed banners with the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department, however they do not hang banners between mid-December and March as it's too cold and unsafe. Mr. Kuffel explained that opportunities for banners would be in March, April, September, October, or November. Banners from May to August are booked with other events, e.g. Fair, Definitely De Pere, St Norbert College, etc. For the 5 months that are available, the Commission can partner with our City Health Department to work on times when they don't have a banner hung for the public. Mr. Kuffel suggested putting banners up for Pollinators in April, Adopt a Drain in September and Salt in November. Once there is direction from the commission, a banner would be about \$500, then coordinate with the Health Department to figure out a timeframe between the two entities.

Commissioner Leonard believes last year when they talked about the Grinch Salt idea, it was a little late in the season, but does think it would be appropriate timing. She questioned why banners cannot be hung in the winter months. Mr. Kuffel explained that staff need to use bucket trucks, which can be difficult as it blocks the roadway, even more so if there's snow banks. Additionally, they need to facet banners with their bare hands, which can be tough with metal, especially in the cold.

Commissioner Panick asked if we have looked into other options for advertisements. Mr. Kuffel stated that we have spoken with WIXX and currently have an advertisement with De Pere Cinema for Adopt a Drain. Commissioner Panick explained she doesn't believe it is too expensive and knows that Lamar requires a commitment, but they do advertise monthly which she can reach out to see how much that would cost.

### 4. Discussion on Sustainability Commission Work Plan

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, stated he keeps the work plan updated based on discussions from the Sustainability Commission. No formal updates or direction at this time.

No action necessary. Discussion only.

### 5. Discussion on Initiative Prioritization — Adopt a Drain

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, advised this is the same memo from last meeting. There are no further recognition programs at this time for Adopt a Drain. Since the last meeting, there was a new sign-up for Adopt a Drain and advised there are people cleaning in winter as we get formal submissions from it. He advised the Girl Scout Troop wants the Sustainability Commission to present the storm water model. Commissioner Henrigillis stated she knows how to present this, Mr. Kuffel advised he will coordinate with the troop to come in. Commissioner Leonard questioned if we want to do a formal recognition program, do we have an end date and definition. Mr. Kuffel advised we don't have anything formal, but we do have start-up kits and funds available. He will talk to the Park Department about the Beer Gardens. Commissioner Henrigillis thinks September would be a good timeframe.

No action necessary. Discussion only.

6. Discussion on Initiative Prioritization — Composting

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, advised composting is moving along. We just finished the 4th quarter in 2025 and still working thru reimbursements. Mr. Kuffel suggested for improvements going forward would be to reach out/advertise.

No action necessary. Discussion only.

7. Discussion on Initiative Prioritization — Clean Air Initiative

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer. Looking for an update from the commission, otherwise nothing new.

No discussion. No action necessary.

8. Consideration and Possible Action on Initiative Prioritization — Pollinator Gardens / Planned Natural Landscapes

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer talked about the last meeting where the Commission discussed the "Five for Fliers Program". Attached is the drafted handout on what is an Invasive Species. Commissioner Henrigillis discussed how she met with Conservation Corps and Green Bay Botanical Gardens (GBBG). The GBBG is hoping to hand out pollinator plants on Mother's Day. GBBG is also working with the City of Green Bay, handing out 315 pollinator kits on Mother's Day in May and would be willing to give the City of De Pere 50 kits containing 750 plants in total. Green Bay is willing to partner with De Pere to handle the administrative work and host the pick-up. Conservation Corps is making handouts for the event and is willing to share with the City of De Pere. Commissioner Henrigillis advised on doing an event as previously discussed doing "talks" which can be coordinated with other groups. would be doing something productive with the initiative.

Mr. Kuffel stated the cost for it would be \$500 which works in the budget & recommends to move forward. The City of Green Bay would put on the sign-up which would differentiate Green Bay from De Pere residents. Alderperson Nelson questioned if pick-up would be in Green Bay. Commissioner Leonard asked if we could have pick up in De Pere. Commissioner Henrigillis explained she would be happy to host. Commissioner Lenoard asked if we can do the pick-up at the Mulva Cultural Center. Discussion continued on pick-up. Alderperson Nelson confirmed that we could partner with Green Bay for the sign-up, but residents would be able to pick-up in De Pere. Commissioner Henrigillis confirmed, once we have the details together, that would be listed on the sign-up.

Commissioner Henrigillis listed the plants as being 1 of each: four grasses (late summer/fall: sideoats grama, purple love grass, little bluestem and prairie dropseed), two early plants (hairy beardtongue and smooth peristemon), seven summer plants (lavender hyssop, butterfly weed, swamp milkweed, pale purple coneflower, meadow blazing star and wild quinine) and three fall plants (black eyed susan, showy goldenrod, and sky blue aster). Alderperson Nelson stated he is in favor of the initiative. Mr. Kuffel asked if this is a formal recommendation or if there is more discussion. Commissioner Panick questioned if there is still time to discuss who is doing pick-ups. Mr. Kuffel advised we can go ahead with the plan to partner and commit to \$500, then have details figured out at a later date. Commissioner Panick motions to go ahead with approval of partnering with the Green Bay Botanical Gardens, Conservation Corps and City of Green Bay for plan kit handouts. Commissioner Lawton seconds the motion.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Passed (UNANIMOUS)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Jonie Panick
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Randall Lawton
<b>AYES:</b>	Emily Henrigillis, Randall Lawton, Rachel Leonard, Casey Nelson, Jonie Panick
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Nicole Slavin, Carmen Van Schyndel

#### 9. Discussion on Initiative Prioritization — Green Energy

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, directs input from Commissioner Leonard on the topic. She advised at the last meeting she talked about developing a baseline to work towards a Clean Energy Resolution. The resolution is being modeled after the City of Green Bay's work plan. After looking through their plan, they used slope data which is basically a County Level breakdown of energy use, which is then multiplied by the percentage of Green Bay's population. They use an eGrid tool. Looking at the information, there is overlap of the data from the previous and the Green Tier program. One part of Green Tier's reporting is on community energy use, which is more specific than using slope data. Using these, we have a plan for developing the baseline. Commissioner Leonard questioned if we have a contact at Wisconsin Public Service to get the data needed. Mr. Kuffel advised he would be the one to connect with them as we have other contacts which we use for permitting/construction and can direct us to someone who can help.

Commissioner Leonard advised other communities get the info for Green Tier, so it shouldn't be hard to get, but wanted to confirm if it's separated by residential, commercial and industrial. Mr. Kuffel said he doesn't think it will be that specific.

Commissioner Leonard stated in comparing other Green Energy Work plans in Wisconsin, Eau Claire, for example, uses a software called Clear Path which is an online platform where you can get greenhouse gas inventories, forecast & develop your action plan thru the software. She spoke to someone there and would be willing to speak at next meeting about the software and advised the cost is reasonable and should be in budget. She advised once we get a baseline, the next steps would be to propose initiatives and assess their merits if they go on an action plan. She envisions we might be able to use this tool to hypothesize, come up with targets, track data, etc. Mr. Kuffel advised that getting the information shouldn't be an issue, however it's time consuming.

No action taken.

#### IV. Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Leonard would like to discuss A.I. Data centers related to Sustainability. Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, clarified if there was anything in specific she wanted to discuss. Commissioner Leonard explained she had gone to the proposed Greenleaf Center meeting the night prior, which the center has now been taken off the table. Speakers there had stressed that just because they pulled out of that location doesn't mean that they're gone from the area and likely targeting other communities nearby. She wants to know if there are any vulnerabilities to De Pere or the surrounding communities. She will write up what she learned and forward to Mr. Kuffel to set up a memo/discussion item.

#### V. Adjournment

Aldersperson Nelson moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:53 PM, seconded by Commissioner Panick. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Natalie Markelz