



Sustainability Commission

Regular Meeting

Minutes

335 South Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115
www.deperewi.gov

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

5:30 PM

Council Chambers/Virtual

I. Call to Order

1. Roll Call

Present: Emily Castellanos, Randall Lawton, Rachel Leonard, Casey Nelson, Nicole Slavin

Remote: Jonie Panick

Absent:

Excused: Carmen Van Schyndel, Anna Metzler

Others present:

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer

Natalie Markelz, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant

Allyson Brunette, Allyson Brunette Consulting, LLC (remote)

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

III. Items

1. Approval of the January 13, 2026 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

Alderperson Nelson moved to approve the January 13, 2026 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Slavin. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Casey Nelson
SECONDER:	Nicole Slavin
AYES:	Emily Castellanos, Randall Lawton, Rachel Leonard, Casey Nelson, Jonie Panick, Nicole Slavin
EXCUSED:	Carmen Van Schyndel, Anna Metzler

2. Consideration and possible action on Proposal for 2026 Green Tier Legacy Community Scoresheet Completion*

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, advised staff met with Allyson Brunette of Allyson Brunette Consulting, LLC to complete the Green Tier score sheet for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and have it submitted by the end of year. The cost to complete would not exceed the cost of \$4,500. The intent is to retain her again next year to upkeep and maintain the score sheet, then staff can take over in 2028.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Casey Nelson
SECONDER:	Randall Lawton
AYES:	Emily Castellanos, Randall Lawton, Rachel Leonard, Casey Nelson, Jonie Panick, Nicole Slavin
EXCUSED:	Carmen Van Schyndel, Anna Metzler

3. Consideration and possible action on 2026 Composting Services Reimbursement Rates

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, advised the City took over the compost reimbursement program and establishes the reimbursement rate on an annual basis. Last year's rate was set to cover 50% of fees to Greener Bay Compost. Staff reviewed costs, which have not changed, so the recommendation is the same reimbursements of \$9 for those on the every 4-week plan and \$15 for those on the every other week plan.

Aldersperson Nelson questioned how many residents utilize the program. Mr. Kuffel advised either 26 or 27 residents. Aldersperson Nelson then asked how the participants are on the 2 vs. 4 weeks plan. Mr. Kuffel advised it's about half-and-half.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Nicole Slavin
SECONDER:	Casey Nelson
AYES:	Emily Castellanos, Randall Lawton, Rachel Leonard, Casey Nelson, Jonie Panick, Nicole Slavin
EXCUSED:	Carmen Van Schyndel, Anna Metzler

4. Discussion on 2026 Sustainability Commission Budget

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, advised the Commission is still in its infancy stage of having a budget. There were funds were carried over from 2025, and going into 2026 there's already funds allocated of \$4,500 to Allyson Brunette Consulting LLC., renting a space for the proposed Sustainable Series, composting reimbursements, plant hand out with the Green Bay Botanical Gardens/Conservation Corps, and advertisements at the De Pere Cinema.

Aldersperson Nelson wondered if we should have more plans to spend the funds this year to put it towards good initiatives such as the advertisements at De Pere Cinema and billboards so we don't lose any the following year. Mr. Kuffel advised we are at a better position than last year with the above-mentioned planned expenditures and ongoing initiatives, but does agree the Commission should utilize more of the funding available.

Commissioner Leonard asked if the Commission plans on attempting the Pollinator Gardens again this year. Mr. Kuffel advised we can look at it again, but needs direction on how to proceed going forward.

Discussion only. No action necessary.

5. Consideration and possible action on Initiative Advertising

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, advised Commissioner Panick met with Lamar for billboard pricing. Mr. Kuffel stated that included in the packet are attachments of quotes on various advertising opportunities near the De Pere area. Commissioner Panick explained the differences of options. The digital advertisement is a quick turnaround as all they need is a design, but more expensive, whereas the posters are smaller and have a longer turnaround time since they need to physically make the vinyl and would be about a \$1,000 savings, even with the \$100 premium price to be in De Pere only. She added that they have the same length of run time of four weeks.

Commissioner Castellanos questioned how long the digital advertisements run on screen. Commissioner Panick advised the clips are 8 slots for 8 seconds long. She also advised she's against the digital billboards as it's capturing many people who aren't City of De Pere residents, whereas the local posters are being viewed by residents specifically. Commissioner Castellanos informs that she's also in favor of the posters as it's De Pere focused.

Commissioner Leonard questioned what "eco poster" means and where does it go after it's been used. Commissioner Panick said she believes they are torn down & repurposed but will ask to verify.

Commissioner Slavin asked how much lead time do we need if we go forward/how far out are they scheduled. Commissioner Panick advised each billboard is different, depending on their location, but we do need the lead time to get the posters produced. Commissioner Nelson questioned if we can re-use the posters internally after they've been used. Commissioner Panick advised they do not allow it for liability reasons, however she will ask Lamar to be sure.

Commissioner Slavin advised she agrees with posters, especially because they're on local streets. Mr. Kuffel advised we will need to get branding together and work with City Hall.

Commissioner Lawton wondered if there are any billboards on the east side of the city. Commissioner Panick answered not by Lamar. Alderperson Nelson wanted to confirm that we have ability to swap out every 4 weeks. Commissioner Panick confirmed. Commissioner Leonard questioned if we can run 2 cycles/8 weeks at a time. Commissioner Panick believes that is correct.

Mr. Kuffel will work with Commissioner Panick to get these moving along.

Discussion only at this time, no action taken.

6. Discussion on Sustainability Commission Work Plan

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, advised the updates on the work plan are the proposal with Allyson Brunette Consulting, LLC to get the baseline for Green Tier for the Wisconsin DNR, and updated composting reimbursement rates.

Alderperson Nelson questioned about getting the energy baseline for the Green Tier submittal and wondered if the state has built in suggestions/ideas based off what we submit. Mr. Kuffel confirmed as it looks at the overall City-wide energy use, then it's broken down into the City of De Pere itself on buildings, energy usage, natural gas, transportation, land uses, etc. and they can generate ideas on how we can improve and keep track going forward. This is an annual submission, due in March, so Allyson will be working on our 2027 submission.

Commissioner Lawton thought if the Commission does booths again at Farmer's Market, they can feature the planned natural landscape by having plants present, which can be an engaging experience.

Mr. Kuffel wondered if we could do another plant hand out at Farmer's Market. Alderperson Nelson added that the Stormwater model would be interactive too.

Discussion only. No action necessary.

7. Discussion on Initiative Prioritization - Clean Air Initiative

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, advised there are no updates. Commissioner Castellanos asked if this is something we still need to discuss going further. Commissioner Panick added that she's also fine with tabling the idea as she doesn't have any more information to add to the initiative.

Clean Air Initiative will be removed from further Work Plans. No further discussion.

8. Consideration and possible action on Initiative Prioritization - Pollinator Gardens / Planned Natural Landscapes

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, noted the "Five for Fliers" handout has been updated in the packet. Mr. Kuffel has reached out via email to the Mulva Cultural Center to find out if they would be able to host the plant hand out, however they have not yet responded. Mr. Kuffel stated we might have to look at other venues if Mulva doesn't work out. Staffs recommendation is to update the fliers on our website. Commissioner Slavin also wanted to confirm we can post the information on social media as well. Mr. Kuffel confirmed.

Action amended to post on social media. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

After vote, additional discussion took place. Commissioner Slavin questioned if there could be an incentive for people removing these invasive species plants. Alderperson Nelson questioned if we could create a video on how to do so. Mr. Kuffel advised Natalie Markelz, Administrative Assistant, will get in touch with the production team at City Hall to discuss the process.

Commissioner Castellanos advised the Conservation Corps has roving team to hire as invasive species removal, plantings, etc. which might be something to investigate for the pollinator gardens at the urban orchards.

Mr. Kuffel questioned if we need a proposal, how much would it cost, and how would watering and maintenance be handled. Commissioner Castellanos advised she will reach out to get the information.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Nicole Slavin
SECONDER:	Randall Lawton
AYES:	Emily Castellanos, Randall Lawton, Rachel Leonard, Casey Nelson, Jonie Panick, Nicole Slavin
EXCUSED:	Carmen Van Schyndel, Anna Metzler

9. Discussion on Initiative Prioritization - Green Energy

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, advised the two items in relation: proposal for Green Tier and data center information within the packet provided by Commissioner Leonard.

Commissioner Leonard discussed the speaker from the Greenleaf Meeting of the proposed data center site.

Commissioner Leonard asked about having conditional permitting in place to be strict, so they won't be allowed to build. Alderperson Nelson questioned if Council could issue a proclamation.

Mr. Kuffel advised the commission if they see examples of language regarding data centers from other communities to bring forth so we can pass along. He notes the current known protections for the City of De Pere such as a robust zoning code, regulations with the DNR, the soil itself being clay, and most of the area being on/near wetlands which protect large building construction.

Discussion only. No action necessary.

10. Consideration and possible action on Initiative Prioritization - Adopt-a-Drain

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, discussed that we are evaluating how to further promote the initiative and that the newly approved billboards would be good. Alderperson Nelson asked if we can repost the video for cleaning storm drains as we are getting close to when the snow will be melting and ice is built up. Mr. Kuffel confirmed. Commissioner Leonard suggested getting a reminder email from those who have signed up. Mr. Kuffel said we can send out an email blast and social media post.

Discussion only. No action necessary.

11. Discussion on Stormwater Watershed Pollutant Model

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, and Commissioner Castellanos led the presentation of the Stormwater Watershed Pollutant Model.

Commissioner Panick was excused from the meeting at 6:26pm.

Presentation only. No action necessary.

IV. Future Agenda Items

None.

V. Adjournment

Alderperson Nelson moved, seconded by Commissioner Lawton to adjourn the meeting at 6:31 PM. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Natalie Markelz