



Sustainability Commission

Regular Meeting

Minutes

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

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

5:30 PM

Virtual

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 PM by Commissioner Castellanos.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Emily Castellanos, Randall Lawton, Rachel Leonard, Casey Nelson, Jonie Panick, Nicole Slavin, Anna Metzler

Absent:

Excused:

Others present:

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer

Natalie Markelz, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant

Aaron W., member of the public

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments made during the public comment period shall pertain only to matters under the jurisdiction of the Sustainability Commission. §6-3(f) DPMC

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of the March 10, 2026 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Leonard moved to approve the March 10, 2026 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes, seconded by Alderperson Nelson. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 5 to 0 with Commissioner Lawton abstaining due to being excused from 5:35 PM to 5:36 PM.

B. Discussion on ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability USA (ICLEI USA)

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, advised that staff had reached out to the City of Green Bay regarding ICLEI. Green Bay stated ICLEI is helpful & easy to work with. Mr. Kuffel noted the membership information was included in the Agenda packet. Commissioner Lawton questioned why the New York City's fee is \$10,000 while they're quoting the City of De Pere at \$2,200. Mr. Kuffel stated the fees are population based. Commissioner Castellanos doesn't see any benefit to utilize ICLEI. Commissioner Leonard stated she has viewed other municipalities' workplans and noticed the City of Eau Claire who utilizes it believes the data is trackable and has actionable measures. Alderperson Nelson asked if the City of Green Bay gets value or what's their feedback. Mr. Kuffel explained that they're not full members. Commissioner Leonard stated she would like a demonstration of the tool to consider staff time and tracking for the Green Tier Program. Mr. Kuffel let Commissioner Leonard know that if ICLEI is willing to do a demonstration, the Commission can schedule the presentation for a future meeting. Alderperson Nelson also believes a demo would be beneficial. Commissioner Lawton also asked if the City of Green Bay gets value from theirs. Mr. Kuffel advised he would gather Commission's questions to get answers from Green Bay.

No action. Discussion only.

C. Discussion on 1st Quarter Budget

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, gave an update on the 1st Quarter Budget. So far, the Commission has spent money for Allyson Brunette Consulting, Adopt-a-Drain media campaign at the movie theater, and compost reimbursement. Looking ahead the Commission has more anticipated costs with the remaining funds. Commissioner Castellanos asked if we should have a different video for the movie theater. Mr. Kuffel advised we have reached out to our videographer, and we are able to make the removal of the burning bush video, but Commission needs to come up with dates/times and a script so we can schedule to get that completed.

No action. Discussion only.

D. Discussion on Sustainability Commission Work Plan

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, advised the only main change is that Commissioner Panick is now the lead for composting. Staff has a Green Tier kick off meeting with Allyson Brunette on April 17.

No action. Discussion only.

E. Discussion on Initiative Prioritization - Adopt-a-Drain

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, explained we currently have 24 adopters who clean 33 inlets. Cleaning logs have been sent in recently with the recent rain & floods. Commissioner Castellanos has suggested education as she saw two people drain pools into the storm sewer, not their grass, which is ill timing with the recent rain/flooding, not to mention in general. Mr. Kuffel agrees and stated that after flooding we can use social media to promote Adopt-a-Drain with cleaning log pictures. He noted that he & Ms. Markelz will be presenting the Stormwater Model to a Girl Scout Troop on April 27 at Our Lady of Lourdes School.

Commissioner Lawton thought to contact pool companies to advise customers when and when not to use storm drains for pool water. Mr. Kuffel suggested creating an ordinance/update municipal code. Commissioner Lawton wants to know what isn't right about draining pools into the storm sewer. Commissioner Castellanos explained pools have chemicals that shouldn't be dumped into our waterways. Commissioner Slavik suggest this can be another opportunity for social media. Mr. Kuffel pulled up ordinance 54-8(h) which states, "*Drainage*. In no case shall any swimming pool, hot tub, or spa be drained onto properties other than that of the owner of the swimming pool, hot tub or spa." Commissioner Lawton advised most people drain pools for maintenance in April/May, doesn't think it's an issue. Commissioner Leonard asked if we wanted to find out what the contaminants are that could be harmful. Mr. Kuffel suggest someone contact NEWSC. Commissioner Castellanos said they have good informational material and will do that. Mr. Kuffel said he would add to next agenda.

No action. Discussion only.

F. Discussion on Initiative Prioritization - Composting

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, advised we have currently have 24 households participating in Composting Reimbursement; 14 every other week and 10 every four weeks. Commissioner Panick

referenced the Green Bay Sustainability Commission where they had an idea for potential education on home composting. She wants to know if we can do presentation/session on this topic as well. Mr. Kuffel said something like this would be two months out at the earliest to give us time to coordinate. We may be able to do this at the Mulva Cultural Center.

No action. Discussion only.

G. Discussion on Initiative Prioritization - Pollinator Gardens / Planned Natural Landscapes

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, opened the discussion to Commissioner Castellanos if she's heard anything on the Urban Orchards or plant handouts. Commissioner Castellanos has nothing new, has not heard back on status on these. She asked about posting on social media advising residents to let plants "sleep in". Commissioner Leonard advised she participated in a presentation with Girl Scout Troop at Community Center regarding this topic. Mr. Kuffel asked if she had any media or pictures to share, and to send his way. Commissioner Castellanos will share more updates once available.

No action. Discussion only.

H. Discussion on Initiative Prioritization - Green Energy

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, advised again that the meeting with Allyson Brunette is scheduled for April 17 to discuss the Legacy Green Tier Scoresheet to get submitted next year.

No action. Discussion only.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Slavin asked about the update on the advertising banner. Mr. Kuffel advised staff is still working on it.

Commissioner Leonard advised she is still writing up a proposal for Data Center for Common Council. Mr. Kuffel advised the proposal will come to the Sustainability Commission first, then forwarded to Common Council.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Slavin moved, seconded by Commissioner Lawton to adjourn the meeting at 6:04 PM. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Natalie Markelz