



Sustainability Commission

Regular Meeting

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

Final Minutes

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

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	Present	
Cindy Champeau	Commissioner	Excused	
Emily Henrigillis	Commissioner	Present	
Randall Lawton	Commissioner	Absent	
Nicole Slavin	Commissioner	Present	
John Quigley	Alderperson	Present	

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

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 September 12, 2023 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Slavin moved to approve the September 12, 2023 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Henrigillis. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Nicole Slavin, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Emily Henrigillis, Commissioner
AYES:	Jayne Black, Emily Henrigillis, Nicole Slavin, John Quigley
ABSENT:	Randall Lawton
EXCUSED:	Cindy Champeau

2. Discuss Vacant Sustainability Commissioner and Student Advisor Positions

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, explained with the approved changes to the City Ordinance for Sustainability Commission composition, there is a commissioner vacancy along with two teen advisors. Mr. Kuffel requested commissioners work through staff and the mayor to get the positions filled if they had recommendations.

Commissioner Henrigillis asked if the commission was looking for any specific expertise or talent to fill the vacancies. Mr. Kuffel outlined the verbiage in the City Ordinance for commission members including a background in or knowledge of sustainability and sustainable practices and needing to live or work in De Pere. Alderperson Quigley stated that Commissioner Black has a recommendation for a teen advisor. Commissioner Black stated she did and would get the information to staff. Alderperson Quigley asked if the

teen advisor positions had to be one student from east side and one student from west side. Staff stated it did not need to be split.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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3. Discuss Social Media Posts for November thru January

Betty Sellenheim, Recording Secretary, outlined the "meet the commissioners" plan for social media posts through January.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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4. Discuss Clean Air Initiative

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, asked the subgroup to update the Commission on the initiative and work with the schools.

Commissioner Black provided an update from their first outreach event and response from the schools. Commissioner Black stated that she has received concerns from the schools about the commissioners approaching parents directly and asked for ideas for working with the schools and/or getting the word out in other ways. Commissioner Henrigillis suggested working with the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Alderperson Quigley expressed his support of working with the PTO and also reminded the Commission that Scott Thoresen (Public Works Director), Commissioner Black, and himself met with the school district superintendents who supported the cause and agreed to help get the word out. Alderperson Quigley stated that the superintendent support needs to be linked with the individual schools to help gain support. Commissioner Black suggested following up with the superintendents with an update on the initiative and the obstacles being presented. Alderperson Quigley suggested asking the superintendents how they would prefer the Commission spread the message of the Clean Air Initiative at the individual school level. Commissioner Henrigillis suggested talking with residents that live on streets where cars often idle and see if they would support the initiative and have a yard sign placed at the front of their home for parents to see and deter idling. Alderperson Quigley supported the yard sign plan and stated that the Commission needs to have multiple outlets for getting the word out for best results. Commissioner Slavin stated her belief that the Commission should try all the suggested options for notifying parents of the initiative and the benefits of not idling. Commissioner Slavin stated that she has spoken with a few parents that were idling near her home and also her neighbors who she stated would likely put yard signs out. Commissioners Black and Henrigillis asked about getting additional signs and the cost of having signs made. Betty Sellenheim, Recording Secretary, apologized for forgetting to bring the yard signs that were made for each Commissioner to use at their home and gave a rough idea of the cost for getting signs made by the company that makes the No Mow May signs. Commissioner Black stated the subgroup could try to get a dozen homes that would be willing to have a sign in their yard until winter. Ms. Sellenheim stated for small amounts, staff would discuss internally with the sign shop to get them made, and look to get more made by a sign company in the 2024 budget. Commissioner Black suggested selecting a pilot school or two, like Dickinson or Foxview, and get a dozen homes to put yard signs out and gauge responses. Commissioner Black added that if the yard signs were successful in reducing idling, the group would look to expand to other streets near schools where cars are often seen idling. Commissioner Henrigillis stated that Merrill Street would also be good to target as there are three schools located along it. Alderperson Quigley asked if there were actions that other Commissioners can be taking, who are not part of the subgroup, to help support the initiative plan next steps. Commissioner Black requested input on a follow-up

letter to the schools that would be drafted and possible PTO attendance and helping distribute signs and talk to neighbors. Ms. Sellenheim suggested reaching out to media outlets for interviews or requesting they air the Clean Air Initiative video the City produced. Alderperson Quigley shared some responses he has personally received regarding the clean air initiative and the impact it has had on those people reducing their idling. Mr. Kuffel stated that having the teen advisor positions filled will give new insight into ways to get the message out in the schools.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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5. Discussion on Stormwater Art Project Timeline and Structure

Chase Kuffel, Assistant City Engineer, explained that the Commission approved a Stormwater Art Project for 2024 and stated that Commissioner Henrigillis had a draft timeline and structure to share.

Commissioner Henrigillis outlined the steps in her draft plan including reaching out to community members, local businesses, and schools this fall and winter for adopting storm drains and/or design competitions, sharing yard maintenance techniques in spring along with adopting storm drains in neighborhoods, followed by mural painting/art days in summer, and additional yard maintenance techniques next fall. Commissioner Henrigillis outlined next steps including: reaching out to NEWSC (Northeast Wisconsin Stormwater Consortium) for educational opportunities and storm drain templates, developing handouts for residents regarding the importance of protecting the waterways, reaching out to Definitely De Pere, and developing a plan to reach out to teachers (art teachers, green teams). Betty Sellenheim, Recording Secretary, requested additional information on the position Definitely De Pere would play in the project if staff reached out to them. Commissioner Henrigillis stated it would be a partnership as they have contacts for downtown businesses and promote art downtown and may have contacts for artists. Commissioner Slavin suggested having a meeting with Definitely De Pere for the SW Art Project subgroup to further discuss each organizations ideas. Alderperson Quigley suggested smaller stencil art that homeowners can have painted on storm drains near their homes if they adopt them. Commissioner Henrigillis stated she would ask NEWSC when she reached out to them. Alderperson Quigley suggested having a stencil/template made from the winning design, if there is a competition, to use that for the next year's neighborhood storm drain adoptions. Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, stated that the Commission will need to have their final plan for the Stormwater Art Project approved by Council. Mr. Kuffel added that staff will also bring forward ideas from other communities with similar programs. Alderperson Quigley requested, per the Common Council discussion, that wording be modified to remove the statement that stormwater is not treated as there are limited locations that drain directly to the river and the City does meet DNR requirements for stormwater treatment. Ms. Sellenheim added that there is a Stormwater Awareness Week in September that could highlight this project and/or have a mayoral proclamation. Commissioner Black suggested having a live painting of the stormwater mural during a downtown farmer's market event. Alderperson Quigley asked if Commissioner Henrigillis would be willing to type her plan for review at a future meeting to be forwarded to Common Council. Commissioner Henrigillis stated it was typed and she would add the suggestions from the meeting and share after she has a chance to reach out to NEWSC.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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IV. Future Agenda Items

None

V. Adjournment

Commissioner Henrigillis moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:58 PM, seconded by Alderperson Quigley. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Marovich