



Sustainability Commission

335 South Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115
<http://www.de-pere.org>

Regular Meeting

Final Minutes

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

5:30 PM

De Pere City Hall Council Chambers

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Alderperson Casey Nelson

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Scott Thoresen	Public Works Director	Present	
Pat Finder-Stone	Board Member	Present	
Casey Nelson	Alderperson	Present	
Renee Gasch	Board Member	Late	5:37 PM
Rebecca McKean	Board Member	Present	
Bill Niedzwiedz	Board Member	Present	
Larry Garrison	Board Member	Excused	

Others in attendance: Mayor Walsh and Larry Delo, City Administrator.

Mayor Walsh thanked the members for sitting on the Sustainability Commission. It is a very important commission for not only the city, but the community as a whole.

II. Public Portion

None.

III. Action Items

1. Consider Sustainability Commission Chairperson

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, recommended appointing Alderperson Nelson the Chairman of the Commission, seconded by Pat Finder-Stone. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director
SECONDER:	Pat Finder-Stone, Board Member
AYES:	Thoresen, Finder-Stone, Nelson, McKean, Niedzwiedz
ABSENT:	Renee Gasch
EXCUSED:	Larry Garrison

2. Consider Sustainability Commission Vice - Chairperson

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works reviewed the duties of the Vice Chairman. If the Chairman is unable to be at a meeting, the Vice Chairman would run the meeting. Alderperson Nelson questioned if anyone has any interest in being the Vice Chairman. **Pat Finder-Stone recommended Rebecca McKean to serve as the Vice Chairman of the Sustainability Commission, seconded by William Niedzwiedz. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Pat Finder-Stone, Board Member
SECONDER:	Bill Niedzwiedz, Board Member
AYES:	Thoresen, Finder-Stone, Nelson, McKean, Niedzwiedz
ABSENT:	Renee Gasch
EXCUSED:	Larry Garrison

3. Consider Sustainability Commission Meeting Frequency

Aldersperson Nelson reviewed the quarterly meeting requirements for the Sustainability Commission.

Pat Finder-Stone questioned the ability to call special meetings if necessary.

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works confirmed the ability to call special meetings.

Scott Thoresen, moved to tentatively schedule quarterly meetings, every three months, on the second Tuesday at 5:30 pm, seconded by Aldersperson Nelson. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Renee Gasch arrived at 5:37 pm.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director
SECONDER:	Casey Nelson, Aldersperson
AYES:	Thoresen, Finder-Stone, Nelson, McKean, Niedzwiedz
ABSENT:	Renee Gasch
EXCUSED:	Larry Garrison

4. Consider Sustainability Commission Duties

Aldersperson Nelson reviewed the ordinance and duties of the Sustainability Commission. He stated that there are not many duties specifically established, but rather what the Commission feels what would be the most beneficial for the city.

William Niedzwiedz questioned the baseline of where the city would like to be regarding sustainability.

Renee Gasch commented on the importance of engaging the community and providing more community outreach to help citizens understand what the city does for sustainability and the citizens to utilize.

Rebecca McKean would be interested in working with St. Norbert College to see what collaborative efforts can be done with sustainability.

Aldersperson Nelson feels there needs to be a baseline on what the city is doing today and have measureable goals to see if the goals are met.

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, reviewed some of the city operations regarding sustainable practices and what can be done at the commission level.

Larry Delo, City Administrator, explained that the Green Tier presentation that is to follow from the Wisconsin DNR might provide a better understanding on what might be achievable. The commission will be responsible to give direction to the city as to what areas should be focused on.

Aldersperson Nelson commented that the commission could have an impact at budget time with recommendations being submitted to common council on new projects.

RESULT:	NO ACTION
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5. Discuss Green Tier Legacies

Weston Wegener, Green Tier Program Specialist with the Wisconsin DNR gave a presentation on Green Tier Legacy Communities, stating it is a free and voluntary program that exists to help communities with sustainability goals. Participation includes all divisions of local government in Wisconsin and addresses sustainability issues and opportunities. Participation also positions communities favorably for certain WDNR grants. Even though the program is free and voluntary, there are a few commitments that are necessary. The city would need to adopt a resolution stating the intent to join the charter and adhere to the charter commitments, conduct a baseline assessment, report annually on sustainability goals and engage with the network.

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, explained that the intent tonight is for Weston to do his presentation and then for the commission to determine if it is in the best interest of the city to join the Green Tier Legacy Communities. If the commission wants to pursue becoming a member, then the commission would need to recommend to council to adopt a resolution to be a member of Green Tier Legacy Communities.

Discussion followed.

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works stated it appears that the commission is in favor of joining the Green Tier Legacy Communities. He explained a resolution can be drafted and brought forward as an action item at the next quarterly meeting.

William Niedzwiedz stated that professors at St. Norbert or UWGB might be willing to have classes work on projects to help the commission.

Renee Gasch stated she is in favor of pursuing the resolution, however would still be interested in pursuing other avenues as well.

RESULT: NO ACTION

6. Discuss Sustainable Practices in City's Operations

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, reviewed some sustainability practices the city currently implements.

Aldersperson Nelson commented that the Sustainability Commission can be the connection of what the city is doing internally at the staff level and what the community can do. City staff is already very interested in sustainability practices and the community can be educated on what is being done and what residents can do.

RESULT: NO ACTION

IV. Future Agenda Items

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works requested the Green Tier resolution, any recommended budget items, and to view the green roof.

Aldersperson Nelson requested a formal agenda item for a brainstorming session. It would be beneficial for each member to bring their top three to five items they would like to focus on.

V. Adjournment

Aldersperson Nelson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm, seconded by Renee Gasch. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Grace Lahtela