

**Red Wing Sustainability Commission
Special Meeting
City Council Chambers
July 17, 2025**

Members Present: Chair Kristen Bandurski; Commissioners Hugh Brown, Dan Evanson, Mark Berman, Shawn Carney, Maddie Brown

Members Absent: Commissioner Joshua Meyer (unexcused)

Others Present: Brandy Howe, Staff Liaison; Kim Beise, Council Liaison

1. Roll Call

Chair Bandurski called the workshop to order at 5:33 p.m.

2. Red Wing Sustainability Vision & Mission Statement

Chair Bandurski read the Sustainability Commission Vision & Mission Statement.

3. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted. Chair Bandurski and Commissioners H. Brown, Evanson, Berman, Carney, and M. Brown were in attendance along with Staff Liaison Howe and Council Liaison Beise.

4. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner H. Brown, seconded by Commissioner Maddie Brown and unanimously carried, to remove the 2024 Jay McCleary Sustainability Award nominees from Item 9.A.

A motion was made by Chair Bandurski, seconded by Commissioner H. Brown and unanimously carried, to approve the agenda with the removal of 2024 nominees.

5. Approval of Minutes

A. Motion to Approve April 22, 2025, Workshop Minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner H. Brown, seconded by Commissioner Evanson and unanimously carried, to amend the April 22, 2025, Sustainability Commission Workshop Minutes to reflect that Jay Hill is no longer a member of the Sustainability Commission.

A motion was made by Commissioner M. Brown, seconded by Chair Bandurski and unanimously carried, to approve the workshop minutes as amended.

6. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

7. Election of Officers

A. Election of Chairperson

Staff Liaison Howe reviewed the election process and opened nominations for the position of Chairperson. Commissioner Evanson was nominated to serve as Chairperson and declined the nomination. Commissioner Berman was nominated to serve as Chairperson and declined the nomination. Commissioner Maddie Brown was nominated as Chairperson and declined due to a potential conflict. Commissioner H. Brown nominated himself to serve as Chairperson.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bandurski, seconded by Commissioner Carney and unanimously carried, to elect Commissioner H. Brown as Chairperson of the Sustainability Commission for 2025 by a unanimous ballot.

B. Election of Vice Chairperson

Staff Liaison Howe opened nominations for the position of Vice Chairperson. Commissioner Berman nominated himself to serve as Chairperson.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bandurski, seconded by Commissioner Mark Berman and unanimously carried, to elect Commissioner Berman as the Vice Chairperson of the Sustainability Commissioner for 2025 by a unanimous ballot.

C. Election of Pro Tem

Staff Liaison Howe opened nominations for the position of Pro Tem. Commissioner Bandurski nominated herself to serve as Pro Tem.

A motion was made by Commissioner M. Brown, seconded by Commissioner H. Brown and unanimously carried, to elect Commissioner Bandurski as the Pro Tem of the Sustainability Commission for 2025 by a unanimous ballot.

8. Communication Items

A. Finance Report

Staff Liaison Howe reviewed the finance report.

Commissioner Bandurski raised the topic of funding for the Sustainability Commission's presence at River City Days. Commissioners H. Brown, M. Brown, Carney, and Evanson reported that they were unavailable to assist during River City Days. Staff Liaison Howe and Commissioner Bandurski volunteered to represent the commission from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, August 2. Commissioner Bandurski offered to order prizes with a \$200 budget and check with Resilient Red Wing for educational handouts and prizes. Staff Liaison Howe agreed to inquire about City printing.

A motion was made by Commissioner M. Brown, seconded by Commissioner Bandurski and unanimously carried, to authorize the purchase of prizes for River City Days for a budget of up to \$200.

Commissioner M. Brown expressed a desire to purchase two trees for Featherstone Park to replace dead trees that did not survive. She suggested checking with Sargent's Nursery to see if there is a discount and considering Outback Nursery in Hastings. Shawn Blaney or Pat Ramaker of the Public Works Department will be consulted. Commissioner M. Brown asked for a \$500 budget. Commissioner Berman suggested that using 20% of the commission's budget is steep and inquired if grants or Public Works trees might be available. Tree height was discussed. Fruit and pollinator-friendly species were also discussed. A note was made that bare root trees are only available in the spring.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bandurski, seconded by H. Brown and unanimously carried, to allocate up to \$500 for the purchase of two trees. Commissioners Bandurski and Berman stated that they will work with Public Works on installation. Commissioner M. Brown stated that she will work with Resilient Red Wing on species selection.

B. City Council Liaison Report

City Council Liaison Beise reported that a GreenStep Cities certificate has been received from the League of Minnesota Cities. He also reported that the City Council discussed rule changes for commissions and tabled further discussion on the topic until August 11.

Commissioner Bandurski proposed wildflower planting for a new trail instead of sod.

C. Subcommittee Report

Commissioners Berman and Bandurski will talk to Public Works about lawn and pollinator issues and bring any input from them back to the full commission for further discussion.

9. Communication Items

A. Jay McCleary Award – Consider Nominations

The award subcommittee, Commissioners Bandurski, Berman, and H. Brown, met and came to the consensus to recommend the Red Wing High School Sustainability Club as the recipient of the 2025 Jay McCleary Sustainability Award. Discussion occurred on how the award recipient selection dovetails with encouraging youth involvement in sustainability.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bandurski, seconded by Commissioner Berman and unanimously carried, to award the 2025 Jay McCleary Sustainability Award to the Red Wing High School Sustainability Club.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bandurski, seconded by Commissioner Carney and unanimously carried, to utilize the same budget as the previous year's award and coordinate the creation of the plaque with local business Creative Hand.

The award will be presented at a future Sustainability Commission meeting, and Commissioner Bandurski stated that she will coordinate the award presentation. Commissioner Berman expressed that he wanted to work with the club's advisor to announce the award to the school.

10. Communication Items

A. Topics for Futures Agendas

Commissioners brought forward the following topics for future agendas:

- A pollinator lawn ordinance;
- A GreenStep Cities program presentation with a request to coordinate with the state on a speaker who can come in;
- The Gold Leaf Challenge;
- An update on the City's compost pilot program;
- Construction waste recycling;
- Buy nothing/reuse

B. Next Meeting Date: August 26, 2025 (Workshop)

It was identified that the next Sustainability Commission Workshop will be held on August 26.

11. Adjournment

The special meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.