

**Red Wing Sustainability Commission  
Workshop  
Community Development Building  
September 25, 2025**

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

**Members Absent:** Commissioner Joshua Meyer (unexcused absence)

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

**1. Roll Call**

The workshop convened at 5:31 p.m.

**2. Communication Items**

**A. City Council Liaison Report.**

Council Liaison Beise reviewed the 2026 budget planning process. He reported that the City Council recently voted to set the preliminary tax levy and budget. Downtown projects were discussed. Redevelopment of the former maltery site was discussed, and Staff Liaison Howe provided additional information.

**3. Workshop Items**

**A. Organics Composting – Continued Discussion.**

Chair H. Brown referenced past Sustainability Commission discussion of organics composting. He discussed the possibility of working with Solid Waste Campus staff to establish organics composting collection sites. Potential involvement by local restaurants and commercial businesses was discussed. It was noted that the subcommittee has not had an opportunity to meet for further discussion. Operational challenges for local businesses were noted.

Ways that the Sustainability Commission could support the project were discussed. Staff Liaison Howe reported that Deputy Public Works Director Jeff Schneider is very interested in working with the Sustainability Commission on this project. The possible use of the Green Fund toward the cost of collection boxes was discussed. It was suggested that local businesses might also be interested in sponsoring boxes. Examples of organics composting programs in other cities were provided. The question of whether the collection boxes would need locks was raised.

Council Liaison Beise discussed a past residential organics collection pilot project. Potential community drop site locations were suggested. Involvement by the Red Wing High School Sustainability Club was discussed. The benefits of organics composting were discussed. It was suggested to compile methane reduction statistics.

Potential next steps were discussed. It was suggested that the subcommittee schedule a meeting with Deputy Director Schneider for further discussion, reach out to Red Wing School District and Sustainability Club representatives, and gather additional information.

It was noted that the goal would be to compile and present recommendations to the City Council. It was agreed that well-defined strategies and evidence of community support would be beneficial.

**B. Subcommittee Updates.**

A tree replacement project in Featherstone Park was discussed. It was noted that volunteers are needed to help water the new trees. The tree species were reviewed.

A past rain garden project was discussed. Council Liaison Beise provided additional background information.

A trail project was discussed, and it was noted that design changes would not be feasible at this point in the project.

An update was provided regarding the process of drafting potential pollinator lawn regulations.

The organics composting subcommittee membership was discussed. Suggestions for subcommittee meeting locations were provided.

**4. Announcements**

**A. Topics for Future Agendas.**

Staff Liaison Howe reviewed the process of developing meeting agendas. It was suggested to invite members of the High School Sustainability Club to attend a future meeting.

Sustainability Commission member recruitment was discussed. It was suggested to verify the status of Commissioner Meyer, as he has missed several meetings.

**B. Next Meeting Date: October 28, 2025.**

**5. Adjournment**

The workshop adjourned at 6:29 p.m.