

**Red Wing Sustainability Commission
Regular Meeting
City Council Chambers
November 25, 2025**

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

Members Absent: Commissioner Shawn Carney (excused absence)

Others Present: Brandy Howe, Staff Liaison

1. Call to Order

Chair Hugh Brown called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Brown led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Red Wing Sustainability Vision & Mission Statement

Chair Brown read the Sustainability Commission Vision & Mission Statement.

4. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted. Chair Brown and Commissioners Berman, Evanson, and M. Brown were present.

Commissioner Carney and Council Liaison Kim Beise previously indicated they would be absent.

5. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Brown requested that an item related to Commission recruitment be added to the agenda. Chair Brown confirmed that it could be added as Item 11.

Commissioner Berman stated that he would like clarification on something that was written in the City Beat. Chair Brown suggested that be Item 12.

A motion was made by Commissioner Berman, seconded by Commissioner Brown to approve the agenda as amended. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 4:0.

6. Approval of Minutes

A. Motion to Approve Minutes.

- 1. May 29, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes.**
- 2. June 24, 2025, Workshop Meeting Minutes.**
- 3. July 17, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes.**
- 4. August 26, 2025, Workshop Meeting Minutes.**
- 5. September 25, 2025, Workshop Meeting Minutes.**

Commissioner Berman recalled that there was a motion at a previous meeting to strike the Pledge of Allegiance from the meeting agenda. Staff Liaison Howe confirmed that action did take place, and staff are working with the agenda system to remove that item from future agendas.

A motion was made by Commissioner Berman, seconded by Commissioner Brown to approve the minutes as drafted. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 4:0.

7. Public Comment

Chair Brown reviewed the public comment procedure.

No one wished to address the Commission.

8. Communication Items

A. Finance Report.

Staff Liaison Howe reviewed the Sustainability Commission Finance Report.

B. City Council Liaison Report.

No report.

9. Motions & General Business

A. Motion to Approve Letter of Support for Organics Drop Site.

Commissioner Evanson provided background information on the proposed letter of support for an organics drop-off site and recommended approval.

Commissioner Berman shared input that the subcommittee heard related to the request, the desire for a successful location to be chosen for the site, whether the box should be locked or unlocked, and promotion/marketing. Commissioner Evanson recognized the cost estimate, noting that final costs are yet to be determined, but believed that the Commission could support 50 percent of that cost.

Commissioner Brown noted that the Finance Report shows the remaining balance for the year and stated that she would be comfortable using most, or all, of the remaining balance in support of this item. Chair Brown was unsure whether the expense would come from the 2025 or 2026 budget.

Ms. Howe stated that perhaps she could work with the Finance Department to determine if this allocation could be transferred to the use prior to the end of the year to ensure the funding would be provided and that it would not conflict with or impact the 2026 budget for the Commission.

Commissioner Evanson recommended a contribution of \$1,500. Commissioner Brown supported that contribution.

Commissioner Berman recognized that the request may not go before the Council before the end of the year and had questions related to the 2025 or 2026 funding and budget impacts. Commissioner Brown recognized that there is limited information tonight related to the Commission funds, but believed that the most important thing is to show support for the request. She stated that she would support the request even if it came from the 2026 budget.

A motion was made by Commissioner Berman, seconded by Commissioner Evanson to approve the Letter of Support for Organics Drop Site with a maximum contribution of \$1,500. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 4:0.

B. Motion to Approve 2026 Meeting Calendar.

Commissioner Berman suggested a later start time. Chair Brown stated that he could support a 6 p.m. start time.

Commissioner Brown commented that she would support keeping the 5:30 p.m. start time. Commissioner Evanson stated that while he could support an earlier start time, he would be fine keeping the current start time.

A motion was made by Commissioner Evanson, seconded by Commissioner Brown to approve the 2026 meeting calendar as presented. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 4:0.

C. Subcommittee Reports.

Commissioner Brown provided an overview of the Organics Subcommittee report. Commissioner Evanson provided additional information on the discussion that occurred related to potential drop site locations and possible partnerships with the high school.

Commissioner Berman suggested that this item be added to a future workshop agenda. He provided an overview of the Pollinator Report and suggested that also be added to the next workshop agenda.

Commissioner Brown provided an update on the tree planting that had occurred, noting that volunteers had been watering the trees weekly and would continue to do so until a hard frost occurred.

Commissioner Berman shared information on the American Chestnuts that he identified. He stated that he would welcome assistance with planting. Chair Brown suggested that be added to a future workshop agenda.

10. Announcements

A. Topics for Future Agendas.

Future agenda topics were discussed.

B. Next Meeting Date: December 23, 2025.

11. Recruitment Discussion

Commissioner Brown recognized that there are open positions on the Commission and asked if that is being marketed by the City. Ms. Howe provided an update on membership, noting that as of January, there will be three open seats on the Commission. Commissioner Brown suggested that Commission members reach out to people they believe may be interested in serving.

Commissioner Evanson stated that he would be interested in progress on a student member joining the Commission.

Commissioner Berman stated that the sustainability award has not been given out for the year. Ms. Howe commented that she had originally planned that for October, but is now thinking January. She suggested that the Commission go to the school rather than the school coming to the Commission, but recognized that would not be recorded.

Commissioner Evanson stated that it would still be nice to have some type of record of the recognition. Ms. Howe stated that she would try to plan that for the January meeting.

12. City Beat Discussion

Commissioner Berman provided clarification on the membership numbers that were provided within City Beat and the actual membership numbers.

13. Adjournment

Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 6:13 p.m.