

MEETING MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
August 28, 2017
6:00 PM

North St. Paul – City Hall/Sandberg Room
2400 Margaret Street



I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sue Springborn called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Sue Springborn, Chair
Glen Olson, Vice Chair
Simba Blood
Jan Walczak, Council Liaison

Absent: Felicia Tolbert-Ireland

Staff: Keith Stachowski, Public Works
Debra Gustafson, Strategic Operations Director

Others: Brian Frandle, Electric Director
Morgan Dawley, WSB
Stacy Harwell Hoschka, WSB
James Soltis, WSB

III. ADOPT AGENDA

On motion by Commissioner Blood, seconded by Vice Chair Olson with all present voting aye, motion carried to adopt the agenda as presented.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Commissioner Blood, seconded by Vice Chair Olson with all present voting aye, motion carried to approve the May 22, 2017 meeting minutes as presented.

V. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Note: This is a courtesy extended to persons wishing to address the Commission concerning issues that are not on the agenda. This discussion will be limited to 15 minutes.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS-

VII. PRESENTATIONS

VIII. COMMISSION BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. **Review/Discussion/Possible Action:** Solar Power: Brian Frandle, Electric Director attended the meeting to discuss Solar Power with the Commission. Frandle stated the City is required to currently use 17% renewable energy (the City is currently using

close to 30% throughout year). The renewable energy requirement jumps to 25% in 2025. Frandle mentioned the cost to have solar is coming down in price but not enough to make sense to install from a financial perspective.

Frandle mentioned the City does offer a program from residents to purchase renewable energy without having to install solar panels. For only \$3 a month, 100% of your electricity can be sourced from renewable energy. Alternatively, for \$1 a month, 50% of your electricity can be sourced from renewable energy, or for \$2 a month, 75% of your electricity can be sourced from renewable energy.

Jan Walczak mentioned Excel energy gives a rebate to customer that install solar. She mentioned maybe the City in the future should consider in the future waiving the City permit fee for residents that want to install solar.

There are some concerns regarding solar. Currently solar users, use the electrical system but do not pay to maintain the system.

- B. Review/Discussion/Possible Action:** 2018 Road Reconstruction Project. The following staff from WSB attended the meeting to review the project with the commission: Morgan Dawley, Stacy Harwell Hoschka, and James Soltis.

Morgan Dawley provided an updated regarding the silver lake bio-filtration pond, he said it should be done by this fall before the 2018 project starts.

Morgan Dawley said the feasibility report was shared with City Council two weeks prior.

James Soltis stated WSB has been working on community engagement. He said approximately 35-40 residents attended a project open house the other week. Five or six residents are interested in participating in the voluntary rain garden program. He said the project is currently in the design stage and so far the feedback has been generally positive. James mentioned that most of the resident feedback regarding installation of a sidewalk on 19th was negative since the proposed sidewalk does not go anywhere and people do not want to be responsible for snow removal. The resident feedback regarding the proposed trail has been mixed.

Stacy Harwell Hoschka shared storm water management information with the Commission. Stacy said she has been working with Velley Branch Watershed District, She said Velley Branch follows mids. Since most of the project falls within the Valley branch, Ramsey Washington Watershed has agreed to default to Valley Branch recommendations.

Commissioner Blood suggested that when the City installs Rain Gardens that they should contract with a company for a few years to maintain until the raingarden plantings are established.

Liaison Stachowski asked if WSB has talked with Maplewood regarding completing the project to Joy. Morgan stated he has had an initial conversation with the interim Public Works director in Maplewood.

C. **Review/Discussion/Possible Action:** Recycling Survey. The Commission reviewed the draft survey memo and had the following feedback regarding the memo:

- Age ranges listed on the graph charts need to be corrected: Should be 35-44, not 34-44
- Edit on page 4, last paragraph: Should have five spelled out not six. Currently has six (5).
- On question 2, the EAC would like a synopsis of the open ended responses included in the memo, since a substantial amount of people answered “Other Reason”
- Age range 18-24 was only included on some charts. They felt to be consistent it should either be included on all charts or none.

Item the Commission would like considered for the 2019 RFP:

- Organized collection for Multi-Unit and Businesses. Ramsey county would like to see organized multi-unit recycling collection by 2023
- Weekly Recycling Option. If weekly recycling could be offset by less trash costs to residents.
- Organics, if support is available by the time we do the RFP. We may be two contracts out before we can offer. County would like to see cities offer by 2025.
- Clarity regarding bulky program.

Resident Elaine Barton was at the meeting and she would like the City to consider every other week trash pick-up for residents that would like that option.

- D. **Review/Discussion/Possible Action:** Fix-It Clinic. Gustafson started she would be there in the morning to get the group set up. Keith said he would be there at the end of the clinic to help the group wrap up. Chair Springborn and Vice Chair Olson are planning to attend the event. The Commission asked Gustafson to have the event advertised on the yellow sign in front of Casey.
- E. **Review/Discussion/Possible Action:** Mid-year goal status. Commission asked to have placed on the next agenda.
- F. **Review/Discussion/Possible Action:** Score Grant. Commission asked to have placed on the next agenda.
- G. **Review/Discussion/Possible Action:** Cancel or Re-schedule October EAC Meeting. The Commission asked to have the meeting rescheduled for October 16 at 5:00 p.m. Gustafson stated she would send out a reminder email to the commission regarding the date change.

IX. REPORTS FROM STAFF

- A. **Review/Discussion:** Highway 36 Landscape Partnership Update. Gustafson stated she and Stachowski meet with Todd Carroll from MNDot on August 28, Todd is planning to start work on developing design plans for the platers.
- B. **Review/Discussion:** Community Café, September 11, 6:00 p.m. at Casey Lake. Discussion regarding the environment and active living. Liaison Gustafson encouraged the EAC to attend the upcoming Community Café meeting.
- C. **Review/Discussion:** Bees and Chickens. Gustafson stated it is a topic for the September 5 City Council workshop meeting.

X. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

A. **Review/Discussion:** Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Update. Vice Chair Olson had no update since he missed the last meeting.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Commissioner Blood, seconded by Vice Chair Olson, with all present voting aye, motion carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Next Meeting: The next regularly scheduled meeting September 25, 2017