

CEAC Meeting Minutes – June 12, 2014

Attendance: Ross Abbey, Pat Mulloy, Darrell Gerber, Tony Hainault, Eduardo Cardenas, Michelle Schroeder, Roxanne O'Brien, Brian Ross, Michelle Stockness, Sam Grant, Jennifer Ringold, James Nash, Meleah Houseknecht, Shalini Gupta,

Others in Attendance: Gayle Prest, Brendon Slotterback, Al Swintek, Kim Keller

Absences: Jamison Tessneer, Lisa Daniels, Marty Broan, Alexis Troschinetz,

Approval of Agenda and May minutes:

Agenda and minutes approved.

Divestment campaign added to agenda before actions

City Staff and Member Announcements

1. Franchise subcommittee update: Will be writing a letter on behalf of CEAC to submit to the City Council, recommend incorporating the Energy Pathways Study into the Comprehensive Plan, a 2-year franchise agreement, metrics related to the partnership agreement. Xcel will be responding to the city's carbon reduction goals in its next Integrated Resource Plan.

Community Indicators and CEAC role

Gayle gave an introduction and reminded members of the conversation that CEAC had at the last meeting to review and update the Sustainability Indicators. Gayle introduced Kim Keller from the City Coordinator's office who is working on the development of Community Indicators for the City. Kim gave a presentation about City's Results Management system, the City's new Goals and Strategic Directions and the role that Community Indicators will play in the future.

The schedule for updating the Community Indicators:

- June-July: criteria setting and environmental scan
- July-October: Vet proposed indicators
- July-October: Strategic directions conversations
- Nov-Dec: Set final community indicators & targets

CEAC's role in the Community Indicators update process:

- Give feedback on current set of indicators
- Participate in a selection of strategic direction conversations
- Give feedback on potential environmentally-focused community indicators

Questions for discussion:

- What worked well
 - Indicators are better when we have more time to review and discuss them before they have to be approved
 - Indicators that are tied to actionable outcomes
 - It's good to set aggressive goals – what we need to do vs. what is doable
 - Identifying indicators that are clearly measurable and help people understand why things got achieved or not
 - The diversity of indicators has worked well

- There has been lots of opportunity for input, which has been valuable
- The indicators have provided an indication of the City's policy priorities at the legislature and elsewhere. It's valuable to have them adopted by the Council.
- In the past the Indicators have been broken up by subcommittee so that the workload is reduced
- What needs to be tweaked, should be removed, or where the gaps are
 - Look at the definition of affordable housing to make sure it matches with what people experiencing the problem feel – similar with other indicators
 - Water indicators are not connected to the issues. It's tough to come up with good indicators. The LAURI is a good indicator for use, but not for quality.
 - Transportation indicator – we have struggled to get data in the past. Not having the cordon count has been a limitation.
 - Waste reduction and recycling indicator may need to be revisited since there are a lot of new developments happening.
 - Is Green Jobs a good indicator? How does it fit in the bigger picture?
 - Should we have tree canopy or more broadly: access to green space. We also need to understand the distribution of tree canopy based on neighborhoods.
 - Renewable energy: measure energy efficiency as well, not just renewables. Look at connection to affordability.
 - Adding a geographic distribution component to all indicators. In energy we need a breakdown by sector (residential, commercial, industrial).
 - Make a connection to money or ROI: how much money do you spend to get a green job?
 - Put resources into surveying residents to collect data that isn't available from other sources.
 - Would like more information on goals and strategic directions and how work is being done in each area.
 - Define measures at the "community" level, not just citywide.
 - Where are investments being made on projects in the city in different areas. This includes city investments and investments from other entities as much as possible.
 - Including a measure of living wage jobs.
 - Airport noise: expand this to noise and light pollution citywide rather than just in one area. Is more important when you have a densely built environment.
 - Toxins: new toxins? Pollinator toxin? A measure of nature in the city to serve as a proxy for toxins in the environment
 - Green entrepreneurship instead of green jobs: people who start businesses rather than just a job
 - Community health measure?
 - Community resilience as a measure?
 - Develop a measure of cultural vitality.
 - If an indicator has an existing constituency or outside organization that's pushing it, it might be a more valuable indicator.

Darrell suggested that CEAC will need to break up the indicators into more manageable chunks so members can provide feedback.

Franchise Agreement/Partnership Recommendations

Michelle Schroeder reviewed the letter that CEAC has drafted with recommendations to the City Council on negotiations with the utilities and the formation of a Clean Energy Partnership.

The last bullet point was edited to read: "CEAC strongly recommends a two-year franchise agreement and conducting a review of the Partnership agreement in two years, at which time the City and Utilities could assess the success of the Partnership and then consider signing a longer term franchise agreement."

Add footnotes to add a link to the Energy Pathways study.

Take out "also" at beginning of last paragraph. "We recommend that mechanisms be put in place".

Letter signed by the chair rather than all members.

Passed by voice vote, James Nash abstained.

CEAC representative on MPRB and MWMO Ecological System Plan

MPRB is inviting a member of CEAC to serve on a Community Advisory Committee for the Park Board's Ecological System Plan. They would not be representing CEAC, but would be serving to help connect the process more broadly to the community. This would include 5 to 7 meetings beginning in July and continuing through the fall of next year. The plan will look at future acquisitions, development, stormwater, climate change impacts and many other topics. It will craft a vision for natural resources and public lands within the watershed and the city. Meeting times are not set yet.

Michelle Schroeder and Michelle Stockness both expressed interest in serving as a representative. Meleah made a motion that the chair would select a representative from among those people who signaled interest in the position.

Passed, Jennifer abstained.

Announcements

1. Bee ordinance is being revised to make it easier for people to keep bees. The signature requirement is being removed. Public hearing is happening on July 7th.
2. Comments are due to the City by June 17th on the NPDES annual report.
3. Hennepin County has a program to recognize businesses for recycling and composting efforts. Once businesses apply, county staff visit and verify the program and give the businesses decals to display in their window. www.hennepin.us/businessrecycling
4. Environmental Initiative has a policy forum coming up on waste & recycling policy on June 13th and they still have space. June 25th EI has a program on measuring sustainability in corporations, but it may be translatable to city sustainability indicators.

Future meeting items

- Update on utility franchise agreement negotiations
- Divestment campaign
- Update on Clean Air Rules
- Additional conversation on indicators

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned 5:35.