

Minneapolis Community Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting

Thursday March 10, 2016 4:00-6:00

Minneapolis City Hall Room 132

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Anna Abruzzese, Allan Campbell, Darrell Gerber, Meleah Houseknecht, Brian Ross, Alejandro Ojeda Saint-Martin, Andrew Murray, Jen Kader, James Nash

Others in attendance: Gayle Prest, Siri Simons, Erin Neihoff, Kelly Muellman, Robin Garwood, Mike Luke

Absences: Dylan Bradford Kesti, Roxxanne O'Brien, Lisa Daniels, Michelle Stockness, Tony Hainault, Adam Arvidson, Jenna Grove, Ricardo McCurley

4:11 Meeting called to order by Anna Abruzzese.

Approval of April agenda and March minutes was tabled until quorum met (4:45pm). There was a request to move item #3 – public hearing for the Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance - up next.

4:13 Action/outreach for March 21 Public Hearing in Support of Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance

Robin Garwood requested that people attend the March 21 Public Hearing on the Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance to speak in favor of ordinance. CEAC could speak to the letter of support and help with outreach for other supporters. Allan Campbell said that Sierra Club will be there to support both Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance and the change to the Pollution Control Annual Registration (PCAR) fee structure. Andrew Murray is planning present on behalf of CEAC and the Zero Waste committee.

4:27 Review of approved 2016 Meeting Times and Location

Anna reminded group that they agreed to meet on the 2nd Thursday from 4:00-6:00pm. Members affirmed that this time is still okay. Gayle Prest mentioned that the room is reserved 30 minutes in advance for working groups, etc.

4:28 How to engage other advisory committees <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/index.htm>

- Public Health Advisory Committee (4th Tues, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in City Hall Room 132)
- Food Council (2nd Wednesdays 5:30-7:30 at various locations)
- Energy Vision Advisory Committee/Clean Energy Partnership (Quarterly, Board: June 3 10-12)
- Bike Advisory Committee (4th Wednesday of the month, 4:00-6:00 p.m.)
- Pedestrian Advisory Committee (first Wednesday of the month in the afternoon)

After a report from Jen Kader on her initial work looking into Committees' activities and some discussion, CEAC decided on the following next steps:

- Anna will try to meet with other Committee chairs, with support from Jen.
- Anna will report back after initial meetings to discuss how they went and CEAC will discuss coordination options after report-back (e.g., whether the Committees want to have a buddy system; Committees' priorities and what they want to work on; their mechanism for ongoing work; assigning reps who will commit to review agenda every month, etc.).

4:41 Update on 2016 CEAC Activities

- **Zero Waste Working Group** – Public Hearing March 21 presentation (first agenda item)
- **Climate Action Planning Working Group** – There is interest in electric vehicles. They are reaching out to Fresh Energy and Great Plains Institute to determine what rules and regulations the City can promote. [Side note: New discount in March for Nissan Leaf (reduces cost 40%) – [Drive Electric Minnesota](#)] City applied for Smart City Challenge last week, which could include EV and autonomous vehicles.

There was discussion about climate resilience, which is not a major part of the Climate Action Plan. Kelly Muellman talked about a couple current staff projects on adaptation. There was interest from CEAC in talking about resilience as a future topic.

- **Overburdened Communities (Twilight Zone) Working Group** – Allan mentioned that he met with Roxxanne, Ricardo & Kelly on Green Zones. They are coordinating with the City's effort.
- **Storm water (Pool Party) Working Group** – Jen has been emailing back & forth with Lois Eberhart. Jen presented to Whittier Alliance Business Association meeting on chloride work. Whittier is collaborating with volunteers at the Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association (LHENA). Their goal is raising awareness with contractors for businesses and property owners and hopefully making changes to RFPs. They will evaluate changes in behaviors and then propose changes to City's RFP's with contractors. They will also report back to legislators who are carrying Salt Liability bill HF2594 (to eliminate fear of liability for falls).
- **Minneapolis Comprehensive Plan Task Force** - Lois Eberhart would like representative from CEAC on Environmental Systems Task Force/Research Group (Adam Arvidson is already on Task Force) – CEAC could have extra reps. The Pool Party might be interested because water will be major part. Jen will work on what the “ask” is of participants and send an email to the Comp Plan Task Force. CEAC will vote next month on representatives. In the meantime, someone from the Task Force will attend the next Comp Plan meeting before the next CEAC meeting.
- **Bylaws Revision Task Force** – Gayle reported that they have done some work on draft revisions via email. Need to meet and go through revisions (e.g., updating group name, online voting, etc.). They had some questions on attendance (do they want an attendance policy or enforce the current policy?). The Task Force will bring forward updates to full CEAC at a later date.

5:16 City Staff and Member Announcements

- **HECE presentation on February 29** - Anna presented an update on 2015 work. Andrew and Ricardo attended. Council Member Gordon made some supportive/positive comments. Council Members thanked CEAC for their time. Presentation available on YouTube.
- **Green Zones applications due March 13** - Kelly gave update on the Green Zones process. If more people are interested in participating or know community members who are interested, please contact Kelly by Sunday, March 13.
- **Free Minneapolis Community Connections Conference** Sat April 2 at Convention Center
The conference will focus heavily on the Minneapolis Comprehensive Plan. Additionally, there will be a Community Solar Gardens Speed Dating event to learn about solar gardens and speak with solar garden developers. No commitment to sign up. The event is free. 9:30-11:30am, right before lunch.
- **Clean Energy Partnership** received EPA 2016 Climate Leadership Award on March 8.
- **2016 City Trees** ordering starts March 7 for Wards 3-6,10 and March 21 for rest of city. Trees available for \$25. Trees sell out fast. Go to treetrust.org.
- **LED Promotion:** Xcel Energy launched a two month long promotion of energy efficient light bulbs featuring discounted CFLs and LEDs at local retailers. Save up to \$5 on select LEDs or CFLs for as little as \$1 per bulb (Dollar Tree Home Depot, Target).
xcelenergy.com/LightingDeals
- **Reminder: annual rain barrel and compost bin sale** is going on now through Recycling Association of Minnesota.

Brian Ross announced he is resigning from CEAC due to work load. He has been a member since 1998 and commented on the strength and importance of the group..

Erin Niehoff announced that Senator Kari Dziedzic will be having a meeting at Van Cleve hosted by MN Environmental Partnership if anyone lives in her district.

Brian announced that Metro CERTs accelerator technical assistance opportunity is open. CERTs will help a neighborhood or organization through a clean energy project. Contract Trevor Drake. March 24 is deadline.

Alan reminded CEAC that the March 21 HECE meeting will include a public hearing on changes to pollution impact fees (Pollution Control Annual Registration - PCAR). The proposal will change fee from charging emission reductions to including charging pollution levels. It will be revenue neutral but change the burden from proactive businesses to those that pollute.

Darrell announced the upcoming MOOS Family Lecture Series on wastewater. This lecture is free and open to the public. "Evolution to Cleaner Water and Greener Water Companies" April 13 – University of Minnesota, St Paul Student Center Theater .

Jen announced the state of the water conference and other upcoming events from Freshwater Society, including a Water Reuse Workshop.

5:42 Approval of March Agenda and February Meeting Minutes

Jen moved to approve March agenda and February Meeting Notes. Darrell seconded. Motion passed.

5:43 Next meeting April 14 possible items and adjourn

- Confirmed Greg Pratt, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency - MnRiskS (open to public) 45-60 minutes.
- Comp Plan CEAC representative vote
- 35W Access Project (I-94 to 42nd). EIS public comment period opens for one month on March 21. Jen will review further as to feasibility of submitting comments.

5:55 Brian Ross moved to adjourn. Motion passed.