

**Minneapolis Community Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting**  
**Thursday January 14, 2014 3:30-5:30 p.m. City Hall (350 S 5th Street) Room 132**

**Meeting Notes**

**Attendance:** Anna Abruzzese, Allan Campbell, Jenna Grove, Tony Hainault, Meleah Houseknecht, Jen Kader, Dylan Bradford Kesti, Ricardo McCurley, Andrew Murray, James Nash, Roxxanne OBrien, Michelle Stockness

**Others in Attendance:** Robin Garwood, David Herberholz, Kellie Kish, Gayle Prest, Siri Simons, Mike Luke

**Absences:** Adam Arvidson, Eduardo Cardenas, Lisa Daniels, Darrell Gerber, Brian Ross, Alejandro Ojeda Saint-Martin

**1) Meeting Call to Order**

Anna Abruzzese called the meeting to order at 3:43 p.m. There was no quorum at this time to approve the November/December minutes. Ms. Abruzzese amended the agenda to conduct introductions and a staff update first while waiting for quorum.

**2 ) City Staff and Member Announcements**

- **Green Zones**

Gayle Prest provided an update on the Green Zones policy. Ms. Prest explained that the City Council's Health, Environment, and Community Engagement (HECE) Committee passed a Resolution establishing a Green Zones Policy Task Force and approved a staff direction to move forward on the Green Zones policy work plan. It's anticipated that the City Council's Community Development and Regulatory Services (CDRS) Committee will review in February.

- **Boards and Commissions Orientation**

Ms. Prest informed CEAC that the boards and commissions orientation for new and current members is Monday February 29<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7pm in City Hall Room 319 (invite coming soon).

- **Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance**

Robin Garwood shared an update on the proposed Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance. The ordinance is sponsored by Cam Gordon and Abdi Warsame. Based on the recommendations from CEAC in 2015, it would prohibit retailers from providing plastic bags (with some exceptions) and charge retail customers \$.05 per paper bag. Mr. Garwood explained that the proposed ordinance was emailed to all small businesses, will be presented at the next Business Advisory Committee meeting, and discussed during a public hearing through the Health Environment and Community Engagement Committee in March. There was discussion about the history and potential impact of the ordinance. The CEAC Zero Waste Committee will be drafting a letter for CEAC to send in support for discussion at CEAC's February meeting.

City staff explained the current plastic bag recycling rate is >2%, while bags thrown in the solid waste stream are incinerated at the Hennepin County Recovery Center (HERC). In terms of enforcement, no department has been identified yet.

- **Community Solar Garden Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Mr. Garwood also noted that the City is engaged in a few RFP processes for community solar gardens (CSG). Currently we are participating in CSG process lead by the Metropolitan Council focused on pricing. City staff are also directed to develop an RFP for CSG but focused on additional attributes including low income access. Under the CSG law, an anchor subscriber, like Minneapolis can use no more than 40% of the electricity from a single CSG. Mr. Garwood highlighted the opportunity for homeowner and businesses to participate in the community solar project. The group discussed the importance of engaging low-income residents and communities of color. Members identified the Public Utility Commission (PUC) public comment period on solar gardens and low income communities (open until April 1) and the strength of the City's credit score as levers that can help increase historically oppressed communities' access to CSG.

- **Minneapolis Community Garden Program Open Soon for 2016 Applications**

Gayle Prest informed members that the City of Minneapolis recently approved new rules to lease City-owned vacant lots for community gardens and market gardens and also approved additional lots for lease. The application and related process information will be available soon on the Homegrown Minneapolis website and distributed through the Homegrown e-newsletter.

- **Holiday Tree Disposal**

Kellie Kish, of the City's Solid Waste and Recycling Division shared that most Holiday trees in Minneapolis are used for woodchips or energy. The trees cannot be composted because they are treated with chemicals.

- **Citywide Organics Recycling**

Kellie Kish reported that the first phase of organics recycling was successful. Ms. Kish described outreach efforts using paid social media advertising, neighborhood associations, and translated materials leading to the current 32% sign-up rate. She asked for CEAC members to help publicize citywide organics recycling by encouraging residents to sign up by February 1<sup>st</sup> by calling Solid Waste and Recycling at 612-673-2917 Monday–Friday 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. or emailing [SWRcustomer@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:SWRcustomer@minneapolismn.gov).

## 2) **Approval of November/December Minutes**

CEAC met quorum by 4:15pm. Michelle Stockness moved and Andrew Murray seconded the approval of the November/December minutes. Motion approved.

## 3) **Discussion of 2016 Meeting Times and Location**

Ms. Prest offered to share a Doodle poll with members to determine the 2016 meeting time and location. Based on members' feedback, the options will include 3:30p, 4p, 4:30p, and 5p on the second Thursday of each month. City staff will bring the poll results to the next CEAC meeting.

## 4) **Potential 2016 Chair and Vice Chair Candidates**

Ms. Prest reminded members that per the bylaws, a vote for 2016 Chair and Vice Chair will occur at the February CEAC meeting. Interested candidates should send an email to Ms. Prest by January 30 although people can also add their names at the February meeting. There will be a secret ballot. Ms. Abruzzese commented that historically, the Chair role has required approximately four hours per month including attending all CEAC meetings, meeting with Ms. Prest to develop agendas, and editing and sending notes.

## 5) Reflections on 2016 CEAC Activities

The group broke out into two sub-groups.

- **Pool Party (Water):** Jen Kader reported that 2016 subgroup priorities include reviewing the option of pursuing the Kmart site as a green infrastructure pilot and integrating stormwater BMPs into the Complete Streets Policy. Additional items include reviewing and commenting on appropriate city plans and preparing for the Comprehensive Plan process. She will send a poll to determine the subgroup's 2016 meeting logistics.
- **Climate Action Planning:** Tony Hainault shared that the PUC's Xcel Renewable Connect docket is still of interest, but is delayed due to a challenge related to electric vehicles. The subgroup also intends to review the Climate Action Plan with an equity lens.
- **Zero Waste:** Andrew Murray reported that the group will draft a letter to the City Council supporting the draft "bring your own bag" ordinance including impacts on historically disenfranchised communities in Minneapolis.
- **Overburdened Communities:** Ricardo McCurley volunteered to chair the subgroup. In addition to the CEAC 2016-2015 Action items, the subgroup plans to revisit Center for Earth Energy and Democracy Environmental Justice maps and research the HERC. Roxxanne OBrien raised the importance of changing the phrase "overburdened" to "historically oppressed" communities.
- **Bylaws:** Revisions are being proposed via email and will be brought to CEAC at a later time.
- Members discussed that CEAC meetings and subcommittee meetings are not required to occur in City Hall. Members expressed interest in taking field trips to community locations.

## 6) Draft HECE Presentation

Ms. Abruzzese reviewed the draft HECE presentation regarding CEAC's 2015 accomplishments, 2016 priorities and reflections with the group. Members agreed to send Anna update's to the "New in 2016" section and want to include in the presentation the point of encouraging City Council Members to engage with CEAC to improve environmental issues at the city level. This will be discussed again at the February meeting and a date for HECE will be set. All CEAC members are invited to attend the presentation.

## 7) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.