

**Minneapolis Community Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting**  
**Thursday September 8, 2016 4:00-6:00pm**  
**Minneapolis City Hall Room 132**

**Meeting Notes**

**Attendees:** Darrell Gerber, Tony Hainault, Adam Arvidson, Andrew Murray, Allan Campbell, Dylan Bradford Kesti, Michelle Stockness, James Nash, Ricardo McCurley, Jenna Grove

**Absent:** Alejandro Saint Martin, Jen Kader, Lisa Daniels, Roxxanne Obrien, Meleah Houseknecht

**Guests:** Mike Luke, Diana Kennedy (Play it Safe MN), Margaret Schuster (PHAC staff), Lee Sutter (Public Schools) Jon Duesman (MPRB), Joey Colianni (PHAC), Karen Soderberg (PHAC), Diana Kennedy (Play it Safe Minneapolis)

**Staff:** Gayle Prest, Kelly Muellman, Luke Hollenkamp

**4:10 Introductions**

Introductions were made, There was no quorum for approval of Sept Agenda and July Meeting Minutes at start of meeting. Since Meleah notified the Chair that she will be arriving late to discuss item #2, a revision was made to add CEAC bylaw revision update.

**4:12 Bylaws Conversation**

Andrew Murray provided an update on draft bylaw revisions. The Bylaws Task Force includes Andrew, Roxxanne, Tony, Meleah, Alejandro and Gayle. This meeting will discuss the proposed changes and he anticipates voting will happen at the October meeting (per the bylaws there needs to be 10 days notice). The bylaws have not been updated since 2006 and most of the suggested changes are related to new name of CEAC, and membership of the group. However, there are a few items that need further discussion:

Section 5-F focuses on attendance. Previously it states that that members are required to attend all meetings and three consecutive missed meetings and you're out). This has never been enforced. The group discussed how quorum is typically not reached a few times a year and the importance in engaged members. At the same time recognizing that everyone is an unpaid volunteer and life sometimes makes it tough attend meetings. It is also unclear if CEAC actually has authority to remove members since they are appointed by the City Council. Consensus seems to be to loosen language perhaps adding additional language about not only including meetings, but also being in contact, some level of engagement or having extenuating circumstances. One option is language "If you miss three consecutive meetings, the Chair or staff may contact you about your participation and future commitment"

Section 7 – focuses on voting outside of meetings. Currently it states that the use of email is available for online voting at the discretion of co-chairs. Food Council and CEAC are the only known advisory committees that allow for online voting. Typically CEAC tries to avoid it. One suggestion was to make sure that meeting minutes create a record of the vote.

There was agreement that a new topic or new action was not appropriate for online voting and either adding language or making it an internal policy that the topic or document must be introduced at a previous meeting.

Quorum met at 4:16pm

#### **4:30 4) Waste Tires Joint CEAC and Public Health Advisory (PHAC) Subcommittee**

Introductions of CEAC, PHAC and guests were made. Anna reviewed the direction for CEAC, PHAC and staff to make recommendations regarding recycled tires: City Council's Health Environment and Community Engagement Committee requested that the Public Health Advisory Committee and the Community Environmental Advisory Commission study and make recommendations regarding the use of recycled tires as ground cover in Minneapolis and report back to the Health, Environment and Community Engagement Committee in February of 2017. Their first joint meeting was on August 23 at PHAC with a presentation by Play it Safe Minneapolis. CEAC members Anna Abruzzese, Andrew Murray, Jenn Grove, Meleah Houseknecht and Adam Arvidson volunteered to be on joint subcommittee.

Today's meeting is to hear the perspective of Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board (MPRB) and the Minneapolis Public School (MPS) district.

Lee Sutter of MPS Environmental Health & Safety Department reviewed his agency's use of waste tires and issues and passed out a handout on Playground Mulch Summary and Projected Cost. Previously they received complaints of wood mulch related to mold, safety, freezing, and drainage. They looked at rubber mulch which at the time was being promoted by EPA and Consumer Product Safety where it was deemed safer for falls and doesn't degrade. School district didn't make the choice lightly – they have tried lots of products and vendors. Ultimately they decided to go with mulch rubber for safety and maintenance reasons. MPS currently has 47 playground areas (of 66 total) with rubber mulch, 10 playground areas (tot lots) use sand and one poured in place at new Dowling Adaptive playground. See fact sheet for stats on current situation and costs of conversion. On hold with adding more rubber mulch. Lee is not an expert on the health issue. Lee is interested in reviewing the California Report (release 2018) and the EPA preliminary report (release end 2016, full report will take longer). Lee is hopeful that there will be more scientific research and a definitive peer reviewed data then. If there are conclusive links to health hazards, the School Districts will need to make conversions. Basically what MPS looks for in playground surfaces concern fall safety, health concerns, doesn't easily biodegrade, and is affordable.

Jon Duesman of MPRB also gave a presentation. He distributed a summary sheet with a map showing where the synthetic turf fields are located along with tables on more detailed info of the fields and another table on cost conversions to natural turf while maintaining field capacity. They use no crumb rubber or synthetic turf on playgrounds, but synthetic turf with crumb rubber is used on eight athletic fields. MPRB playgrounds use Pour-in-Place, combined with sand, or engineered wood fiber (more use in the last couple years). MPRB relies on its design consultants and research that have said it was safe at time facilities were built to use crumb rubber in their synthetic turf fields. One problem with natural grass is that it cannot withstand the same use (length of season especially), has more wear-and-tear than synthetic. To meet the current heavy demand of the fields if they were converted to natural turf there would need to acquire more land. Cost estimates are a "worst case scenario" and doesn't estimate if the crumb rubber was removed and another infill material was used with existing artificial turf.

Lifespan of artificial turf is 10-20 years, depending on weather, use, maintenance, etc. Since the first artificial turf field was built in 2005, MPRB has started allocating rehabilitation funds in its Capital Plan in 2019-2020 for older artificial turf fields.

It was noted that the location of some of the artificial fields appear to be located in areas with large concentrations of poverty (Phillips and Near-North). Jon and Adam said the reasoning was these are parts of town with some of the highest density and some of the smallest parks – using artificial turf increases playability in the park and demand on those parks which otherwise would destroy natural turf and give less time for people to be outdoors.

The MPRB is developing park master plans by the four quadrants of the city plus the downtown. The South Service Area Park Plan took a few years and was recently completed. There is high demand for artificial turf sports field in the area. The draft South Service Area Master Plan shows additional premiere athletic field (either artificial turf field or a high quality natural turf field that would need to be closed and rested periodically). There is language in the Plan that any new premiere field must be implemented with a product that has been shown to be safe. The cost estimates depends on the infill. A question was asked on how did MPS deal with playgrounds burning? Such fires are usually caused by arson, the Fire Department extinguishes, and then the equipment is removed; unfortunately the space sits empty until they can afford replacement.

There appeared to be consensus that Poured in Place is not a health hazard because encased and doesn't off-gas like waste tire. A question was raised if crumb rubber and waste tires be coated in a safe way that would limit off gassing. Pea gravel is no longer heavily used because does not provide accessibility and has poor fall attenuation.

Next steps: Materials distributed at the meeting will be on PHAC website. The meetings will alternate between CEAC and PHAC work group meetings. Next meeting is Tuesday October 25 as part of PHAC meeting. Experts will speak and the group will begin drafting recommendations.

CEAC at its November 10 will discuss the recommendations and then try to vote on its recommendations at the December meeting since for some members it will be their last meeting. PHAC would also like to have recommendations at their last meeting of the year – in late November. PHAC meetings have been expanded to allow for conversations of joint subcommittees.

A question was raised if it is premature to make recommendations by February if EPA report isn't out yet or other reasons? One possible recommendation may be for a moratorium on new construction until more information is available? Also, how does the City influence MPBR and MPS – the City doesn't have much control over turf fields or playgrounds. How can the City influence private schools and private fields or playgrounds? (

A question was raised if MPRB's Request for Proposals related to fields and playgrounds could ask for specifics on the products used? For example, Nike sneakers versus used tires as "crumb rubber". MPRB does have authority and discretion to specify the products that go into their parks. There is no certification of the product.

### **5:33 Approval of modified Sept Agenda and July Meeting Minutes**

Moved: Darrel, Second: Jenna, passed unanimously.

### **5:35 3) City Staff and Member Announcements**

- Green Zones – The Green Zones Workgroup continues to meet monthly. The next meeting is September 13 from 5:30-7:30pm at the Division of Indian Works. The Workgroup is coalescing around a set of priority issues and will be discussing indicators and data to measure the geographic impact of the priority issues. Meeting locations, agendas and minutes are all on the Green Zones website: [minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/policies/green-zones](http://minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/policies/green-zones).

- Metro CERTS – annual meeting is October 18 from 3-7pm at University of St. Thomas Anderson Student Center. More information and registration available at [www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/event/metro-cert-annual-event-2016](http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/event/metro-cert-annual-event-2016)
- City offering free Home Energy Squad visits and 0% financing for major energy efficiency work for income qualified households for limited time. Go to [www.mncee.org/hes/minneapolis/](http://www.mncee.org/hes/minneapolis/) or call 612 335 5874
- Minneapolis Comprehensive Plan, Environmental Research team (Michelle) – each team has come up with big picture ideas of what should be in Comp Plan. No draft content yet. Reached out to Beth Elliot on engagement plans – best way for CEAC to give input is to attend team meetings and attend Oct outreach family friendly event(s). CPED will be at Monarch Festival on Sept 10 and other community events through the fall. They are also retooling “meeting in a box” to make it more user friendly. That will be coming out soon.
- Climate change adaptation/resilience conversations – The Sustainability Office and Health Department Office of Emergency Preparedness are working with six community-based organizations in three Minneapolis communities, Phillips, Near-North and Longfellow to host community climate conversations in the fall. More information, including event dates, will be available soon.
- 2017-2018 CEAC appointments now open until Fri. Oct 21  
<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings/WCMSP-185640>
- Zero Waste Plan – Stakeholder Outreach Meetings: Single family, Multifamily and Commercial sectors. Please attend the Tue, Oct 18 Single family sector meeting at Minneapolis Urban League. [Register here](#).
- Mayor Hodges official opened the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave bikeway today and plans to extend it across the bridge into Northeast

**5:49 Next CEAC meeting will be October 13. It will include** Bylaws action and more conversation on the crumb rubber. If there are other topic ideas please contact Anna. At 5:49 Tony moved, Anna Second to adjourn the meeting. It was approved unanimously.