

Minneapolis Community Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting
Wednesday May 3, 4:00-6:00pm
Minneapolis City Hall Room 132

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Andrew Murray, Jennifer Kruse, Darrell Gerber, Tony Hainault, Allan Campbell, Erin Niehoff, Thomas Olsen, Isaac Russell-Hart, Ellen Kennedy, James Nash, Lisa Daniels, Michelle Stockness

Absent: Mohamed Yakub, Jon Stenseth, Jenna Grove, Ricardo McCurley

Guests/Staff: Jamez Staples, Brady Steigauf, Kelly Muellman, Halston Sleets, Jenny Chayabutr

1) Introductions and approval of Agenda and April Meeting Minutes

Darrell Gerber moved to approve the agenda and April meeting notes, seconded by Erin Niehoff, passed at 4:18pm.

2) Member Deep Dive: Thomas Olsen (SLACK)

Thomas Olsen discussed the potential for SLACK as a way for Community Environmental Advisory Commission (CEAC) work groups and members to better communicate. Individual work groups are located in “channels”, allowing convenient, internal communication. Another benefit of SLACK is that it can help CEAC communicate without using email, where information can be lost. SLACK is also a mobile app, making it accessible for members even during CEAC meetings.

3) Overburdened Communities – VW Diesel Briefing and Comment Opportunity

Kelly Muellman presented the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency’s (MPCA) Volkswagen (VW) Settlement 101 webpage. VW violated diesel emissions standards, so the violation settlement funds will be directed toward reducing transportation nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions. The MPCA is seeking public comment. Ricardo McCurley composed a draft letter to submit to the MPCA. Ricardo proposed reviewing the letter with the Overburdened Communities work group to vote on next CEAC meeting.

4) EVAC Update: Jamez Staples

Jamez introduced some of the main goals of the Energy Vision Advisory Committee (EVAC). EVAC is the stakeholder advisory committee for the Clean Energy Partnership, a first-in-the-nation utility partnership amongst the City of Minneapolis, Xcel Energy, and CenterPoint Energy intended to reach environmental and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals stated in the Minneapolis Climate Action Plan. Jamez’s primary goal on EVAC is to promote equitable economic opportunity in the workforce of renewable energy. In addition to the workforce work group, EVAC has community engagement, multifamily housing, small business, and funding work groups.

Jamez is president of Renewable Energy Partners, Inc. which partners with Minneapolis Public Schools and Century College to educate and train community members with how to install solar technology. The partnership pairs jobs with training to minimize achievement gaps. Renewable Energy Partners Inc. has a goal of implementing a training center in North Minneapolis to remove barriers, especially transportation barriers, to renewable energy training and jobs.

Jamez’s contact will be sent out to CEAC for members to follow up with.

5) Announcements

- CEAC Annual Presentation Update on April 25th (You can watch a recording of the presentation on the City of Minneapolis YouTube Channel – [April 17, 2017 Health, Environment & Community Engagement Part 1](#) (starts minute 19:50) and [Part 2](#))
- The annual Minneapolis Food Council presentation happened at the same HECE committee meeting. You can find the presentation in [Part 1](#).
- The Green Zones Workgroup recommendations were also presented to the HECE meeting on April 17. You can find the presentation in [Part 2](#) (starts minute 5:45) and [Part 3](#). On April 28th the City Council unanimously approved the [resolution](#) passed by the Health, Environment and Community Engagement Committee (HECE). The resolution establishes a Northern and a Southern Green Zone, with initial pilots in both sectors (see the [Green Zones map \(PDF\)](#)).
- Allan Campbell brought two recommendations for the Minneapolis Comprehensive Plan. The first was that the Plan provide greater reference to the Minneapolis Climate Action Plan goals. The second was that the City make an electric vehicle (EV) related webpage and explore ordinances/zoning code amendments to require EV infrastructure in new multi-family, commercial, and parking facility construction. Darrell and Allan will work on wordsmithing the recommendation for CEAC feedback
- On May 25th Environmental Initiative is hosting an award ceremony to commend environmental partnerships and accomplishments. Register by May 12th, spots are limited. EI is also hosting a June Policy Forum on Federal-State legislative policies.
- Ellen Kennedy volunteered for the June Member Deep Dive.

Andrew Murray proposed that CEAC begin a new custom of adjourning meetings after presentations and announcements so that Working Groups can meet and not be required to reconvene. CEAC members agreed this would be a good idea. Michelle moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Darrell, passed at 5:24pm.

6) Working Group Breakouts

- 5:25-6:00 Energy and Water

Next Meeting: Wed, June 7, 4:00-6:00PM City Hall Room 132
Reminder: July meeting moved to July 12

City Council's Health Energy and Community Engagement Committee (typically meets 1:30)

Quorum: 9 (19 members but there are three vacancies in 2017 – Public Schools appointee, City Council Env Advocacy Group rep and Mayor residential rep)

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability/teams/ceac-meetings>