

Minneapolis Community Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting

Wednesday August 2nd, 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, Ellen Kennedy, Jon Stenseth, Jenna Grove, Lisa Daniels, Michelle Stockness, Mohamed Yakub

Absent: Ricardo McCurley, Isaac Russell-Hart, James Nash

Guests/Staff: Brady Steigauf, Kelly Muellman, Luke Hollenkamp, John Scharffbillig, Forrest Theisen, Chukwumanya Onyiuke

1) Introductions and approval of Agenda and June Meeting Minutes

Andrew Murray motioned to approve the meeting agenda and June meeting notes, seconded by Allen, passed at 4:07pm.

2) Member Deep Dive: Ellen Kennedy

Ellen shared her journey to how she came to work at the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) on long-range environmental planning, urban agriculture implementation, and the Ecological System Plan. The Ecological System Plan consists of a variety of topics that are categorized under air, water and life. In the fall, the MPRB will seek public input about their management practices. The MPRB will also begin their Mississippi Gorge Regional Master Plan in the fall.

Ellen said that the MPRB would welcome the Community Environmental Advisory Commission's (CEAC) feedback on the Ecological System Plan during the second public involvement process this fall.

3) John Scharffbillig – Public Works Fleet Services

John began his presentation by providing an oversight of the City Fleet, breaking it down by Fleet Management, Fleet Maintenance, and Fleet Administration. The City's fleet is 2,353 units, including 1,477 on-road vehicles and 66 off-road. The other 810 units are categorized as "non-motorized." The fleet includes roughly 100 hybrid vehicles, five electric vehicles, and four to five hundred vehicles that can burn biofuel mixes. Fleet Services tries to reduce emissions by 1.5% a year by optimizing the fleet's size and using alternative fuel sources. John explained that police-car idling is a persistent challenge to reduce emissions, in part because of the battery demand of all the operating electronics in the officers' vehicles. Fleet Services is currently conducting an Electric Vehicle Study to compliment the Natural Gas Feasibility Study, and will present the studies' findings to City Council in September or October. Afterwards, there is an opportunity to update the Green Fleet Policy to strengthen greenhouse gas reduction efforts and incorporate the results of the two fleet studies.

4) Zero Waste update – Halston Sleets, Mayor's Office

The City has hired Burns and McDonnell to draft the City's Zero Waste Plan, and Bob Craggs is the project manager. Bob has written zero waste plans for Dallas, Los Angeles and currently is working on a plan for New York City. He also wrote the City's Commercial Waste Study that was finished this past spring 2017.

Halston is currently attending weekly meetings with the consultant, policy aides and solid waste staff to discuss the chapters of the plan. The expected completion time for the plan is August 21st. Community engagement sessions will be held in South and North Minneapolis the week of September 11th, 2017. CEAC would like to review the plan and provide feedback.

5) CEAC Working Groups Updates

- Energy/Air/Climate Action- Working on recommendations for the City
- Water “Pool Party”- Working on salt application training
- Overburdened Communities – no update
- Waste- Will review Zero Waste Plan and provide feedback

6) Announcements

- A draft of the Minneapolis Comprehensive Plan will be available this fall, with an opportunity for public engagement. CEAC will have the opportunity to review the plan and provide further recommendations and feedback.
- Hennepin County is promoting their Choose to Reuse program which provides coupons for reused products at over 50 local reuse retailers.
- Hennepin County is conducting a pilot project called [Green Partners Grow](#) to increase organics recycling, specifically for nonprofit organizations such as community groups, neighborhood groups, youth organizations, faith-based organizations, and community education programs.
- Governor Mark Dayton announced the State’s new “25 by ’25” Water Quality Goal, which aims to improve Minnesota’s water quality 25% by 2025. Community engagement will occur at Town Halls across the state. Minneapolis’ will be hosted September 26th, 2017 from 6:30-8:30pm at Glover Sudduth Center for Economic Development and Urban Affairs, Community Room - 2100 Plymouth Ave N, Minneapolis, MN 55411.
- Windustry is recruiting volunteers (about 20 still needed) to work at their information booth at the Minnesota State Fair.
- The City recently [announced](#) the purchase of a subscription to Xcel Energy’s [Renewable*Connect](#) program of 17.8 million kWh of renewable electricity, or about 17% of the City’s electricity use. The added renewable energy allows the Minneapolis Convention Center to claim it uses 100% renewable electricity, and 3.8 million kWh go to the water treatment plant. In addition to this purchase, City Finance & Property Services staff have been directed to seek up to an additional 50 million kWh per year from the Renewable*Connect Program when sufficient renewable energy is made available for purchase from Xcel Energy. And finally, a [city study](#) is underway to examine options for 100% renewable sources for the City enterprise’s full electricity usage (~101 million kWh annually).

7) Adjourn & Working Group Breakouts

Thomas Olsen motioned to adjourn, seconded by Erin Niehoff, passed at 5:34pm.

- Energy and Water Working Groups met after the meeting adjourned

Next Meeting: September 6, 4:00-6:00PM City Hall Room 132

Speaker: TBD

Future speakers: Zero Waste update – Halston Sleets, Mayor’s Office
Minneapolis Resilience Planning - Kate Knuth, CRO

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>