

Minneapolis Community Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting

Wednesday September 6, 4:00-6:00pm

Minneapolis City Hall Room 132

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Thomas Olsen, Jennifer Kruse, Erin Niehoff, Andrew Murray, Allan Campbell, Darrell Gerber, Tony Hainault, Lisa Daniels, James Nash

Absent: Ellen Kennedy, Jon Stenseth, Jenna Grove, Michelle Stockness, Mohamed Yakub, Ricardo McCurley, Isaac Russell-Hart

Guests/Staff: Brady Steigauf, Kelly Muellman, Luke Hollenkamp, Halston Sleets, Kellie Kish, Heidi Ritchie, Michael Luke, Forrest Theisen

1) Introductions and approval of Agenda and August Meeting Minutes

Darrell motioned to approve the meeting agenda and August meeting notes, seconded by Thomas. Passed at 5:18 p.m.

2) Member Deep Dive: Erin Niehoff

Erin moved to Minnesota from Connecticut to receive her undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota and later her master's degree through the Science Technology and Environmental Policy at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs. Erin now works for Environmental Initiative as a Project Associate, working on issues such as clean air, sustainable agriculture, and engaging stakeholders to work on local and state policies. Erin is most passionate about protecting water quality, which she worked on during her graduate studies.

Erin became interested in environmental issues during her high school job at Subway. She convinced the owner to provide recycling containers in the front of the building for customers to use for their plastic water bottles. This experience sparked her interest in working on environmental issues.

3) Zero Waste Plan – Halston Sleets, Mayor's Office

Halston Sleets, the Mayor's Sustainability and Environmental Justice Policy Aide, and Kellie Kish, Recycling Coordinator, presented the executive summary, outline and engagement plan for the draft Minneapolis Zero Waste Plan. Burns and McDonnell was the consultant for the plan; who also conducted the City's Commercial Waste study in 2017.

[The report](#) is broken down into six waste sectors: residential; commercial, industrial and multifamily; city Internal; institutional; public space; and construction and demolition. Each section of the report begins with a background of the sector, followed by recommended strategies for achieving zero waste. At the end of each section, the strategies are ranked by diversion potential, difficulty of implementation, and ongoing cost to the city. This will help the city prioritize strategies with the highest impact for the least resources.

Overarching strategies recommended in the report include: promoting reuse, conducting waste sorts in sectors other than residential, and allocating additional resources for education and outreach. Access to recycling and data availability is currently the biggest barriers for the city to reach its zero waste goal. Waste sorts are an important first step for the city to identify specific materials in each sector that could be diverted or recovered.

Thus far, the report does not have an emphasis on environmental justice. However, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) Environmental Justice Advisory Group will be reviewing the report and providing feedback. Currently, the hope is that City Council in addition

to community feedback will increase the equity lens of the plan so that implementation does not widen existing disparities.

For more information, visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/mayor/ZWM/index.htm>.

4) Ready for 100 – Heidi Ritchie, Council Member Frey’s Office

Heidi Ritchie, policy aide to Council Member Jacob Frey, presented a draft resolution to formalize a goal for the City of Minneapolis to achieve 100% renewable electricity for the City Enterprise by 2022 and community-wide by 2030/2035. The Sierra Club Ready for 100 resources were used as a template for the resolution.

Heidi is beginning to engage community members and stakeholders to incorporate equity and environmental justice into the resolution, particularly regarding the community-wide goal, which is important for the success of achieving the goals.

The Community Environmental Advisory Commission (CEAC), staff and guests asked questions about the ambitiousness of the goals, plans for creating a road map, what other organizations had been or will be engaged, how other cities have made similar commitments, and made some suggestions for Heidi to take back.

As next steps, Heidi will distribute an updated draft to CEAC. The Climate Action/Energy/Air work group will draft a response letter on behalf of CEAC, which CEAC members will vote on and submit at the October 4 CEAC meeting.

Heidi said that the plan is to take the Resolution to City Council later in October 2017. It will not go to a committee before being introduced to the full Council.

5) CEAC Working Groups Updates

- Energy/Air/Climate Action: Working on drafting best practices for Minneapolis to support EV best practices guidelines. Will be working on comments on the 100% Renewable Electricity resolution to bring back at the October 4 CEAC meeting.
- Water “Pool Party”: Erin distributed a letter addressed to the developer of the Upper Harbor Terminal (UHT) site, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, the City of Minneapolis Public Works, and City Councilmember Reich, and the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization expressing that the involved parties should consider including ways to minimize runoff and improve water quality. UHT is already doing engagement through the Above the Falls Citizen Advisory Committee (AFCAC) and other groups that goes through to the end of the fall. Meeting information can be found on [AFCAC’s website](#).

Thomas Olsen moved to approve the letter, with minor wordsmithing done afterwards, seconded by Lisa. Passed at 5:18pm. Erin will send out the edits to the group next week as a PDF.

- Overburdened Communities: No updates.
- Waste: City Council voted 10-2 to take the Bring Your Own Bag ordinance back to staff to receive comments on low income families and businesses.

6) Announcements

- There are a series of engagement sessions for the Minneapolis Zero Waste Plan:
 - See the City’s [Zero Waste website](#).
 - Comments can also be submitted by [completing this survey](#).

- Eureka Recycling and friends for the [Third Annual Zero Waste Summit](#) event hosted on Saturday, September 23rd from 9am-2:30pm.
- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is offering training sessions to become [Citizen Pruners](#).
- The MPCA's Environmental Justice Advisory Group is hosting a listening session and collecting public input on the Volkswagen settlement. The session will be hosted September 13, 2017 (6:00pm-8:00pm) at the Minneapolis Urban League (Laura Scott Williams Room).
- There is a Community Water Meeting on Sept 13th at Nokomis Community Center, 2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy, Minneapolis from 6:30-8:30pm, hosted by Rep. Jean Wagenius, Rep. Jim Davnie & Sen. Patricia Torres Ray.
- Governor Dayton is hosting a Minneapolis Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, September 27th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Minneapolis Urban League (2100 Plymouth Avenue North) as part of the Governor's #25by25MN initiative to improve the state's water quality 25% by 2025.
- Thursday, September 26th from 8am-noon, Environmental Initiative is hosting a [Business and Environment Series: Socially Responsible Supply Chains](#) event.
- Hennepin County gave a grant to the local Transit Management Organization in Minneapolis to increase mass transit participation amongst downtown commuters. The County is currently working on details for how this will be tracked.
- Minneapolis has achieved a 37% diversion rate for residential waste. While this is excellent progress, the City still needs to improve to reach its goal to recycle and compost 50% of its citywide waste by 2020 and 80% by 2030.

7) Adjourn & Working Group Breakouts

Erin motioned to adjourn meeting, seconded by Thomas; meeting adjourned at 5:56pm

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

Speaker: Minneapolis Resilience Planning - Kate Knuth, CRO

Future speakers: TBD

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>