

Minneapolis Community Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting

Wednesday October 4, 4:00-6:00pm
Minneapolis City Hall Room 132

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Erin Niehoff, Andrew Murray, Allan Campbell, Darrell Gerber, Lisa Daniels, James Nash, Jon Stenseth, Mohamed Yakub

Absent: Thomas Olsen, Jennifer Kruse, Tony Hainault, Ellen Kennedy, Jenna Grove, Michelle Stockness, Ricardo McCurley, Isaac Russell-Hart

Guests/Staff: Kelly Muellman, Luke Hollenkamp, Kate Knuth, Robin Garwood, Michael Luke, Forrest Theisen, Brady Steigauf

1) Introductions

No quorum to adopt agenda or approve September meeting minutes.

2) Resilient Minneapolis – Kate Knuth, Chief Resilience Officer

Kate Knuth comes to the City of Minneapolis most recently from the University of Minnesota where she ran a graduate leadership program, as well as three terms as a state representative where she focused on climate, energy and environmental issues. Kate is leading the City of Minneapolis through the development of a resilience plan. Resilience is defined as the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, and systems within a city to survive, adapt, and thrive no matter what kinds of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience. She is currently doing a wide-ranging scan of the resilience challenges Minneapolis faces as well as the great work many are already doing to build the city's resilience. Inputs into this scan include the December 2016 Agenda Setting Workshop, conducting 100 conversations in 100 days with community leaders and residents, focus groups on key topics arising in the scan and engagement with the City's Boards, Commissions and community events. Initial feedback on timely or long-standing issues include housing, interactions with Federal government, persistent inequity/disparities, climate change, transport, diverse and inclusive workforce, and the challenge of doing "big things". She also is asking what people already like about Minneapolis or opportunities they are excited about. One emerging topic is welcoming immigrants into the city.

3) Member Deep Dive: Lisa Daniels

Lisa is from Massachusetts and lived in Berkley, California for about 10 years, before moving to Minnesota. While in Berkley, she took classes at UC Berkley on sustainability and volunteered with a non-profit where her key project was the [EcoNet](#). In Minnesota she volunteered with MN for Energy Efficient Economy "ME3" (precursor to Fresh Energy). She developed wind energy curriculum with LCMR funding, which was the start of Windustry (where she is the founder and E.D.). Windustry hosts state, national, regional conferences and local small-town meetings to educate people on wind energy in local community. Her focus areas are policy and technical assistance, to bring about clean energy transition, with wind being part of the solution. Lisa's newest focus is a **just** energy transition.

4) 100% Renewable Electricity resolution – Energy/Climate/Air Working Group

The Energy/Climate/Air Working Group presented their comments on the draft 100% Renewable Electricity resolution proposed by Council Member Frey's office at the September meeting. Allan noted that Sierra Club supports the general goal of the resolution but would like to see more planning. There was discussion around how to note that energy conservation is a major priority in addition to moving to renewable electricity. Edits were made to the wording. The group also noted some concerns about ownership of Renewable Energy Credits (RECs). Finally, the group recommended more clear and deliberate language about the importance of action steps, including engaging stakeholders and laying out a policy development process with a timeline and appropriate resources.

As next steps, the Energy/Climate/Air Working Group working group will incorporate suggested changes and send final edits to the full CEAC for an online vote at least 3 days prior to Oct 20. Note: No vote was taken at the meeting because quorum was not met and there were suggested edits to the first draft that needed additional time to work through.

5) CEAC Working Group Updates

- Energy/Air/Climate Action: will make edits on 100% Renewable resolution and send to full CEAC for electronic vote.
- Water “Pool Party”: Upper Harbor Terminal update – heard that the developer received CEAC’s comments and forwarded them on to the team that is working on design. The developer responded that if CEAC wants to receive further notices, it can sign up on the project website, but no one offered come to speak to CEAC. The developer has met with Mississippi Watershed Management Organization at least twice and will continue to engage them, which CEAC felt may be sufficient for advocating green infrastructure and stormwater management.
- Overburdened Communities: no update
- Waste: no update

6) Announcements

- City of Minneapolis is hiring two part-time, temporary Sustainability Program Aides on the issues of Climate/Energy and Food. To apply go to the [Minneapolis Jobs webpage](#). Applications are due October 10.
- Public comment period: HERC Power Purchase Agreement with Xcel Energy had a public comment period that ended September 11, 2017. To see more about the docket, go to the [Public Utilities Commission Speak Up! webpage](#).
- Oct 25: Environmental Initiative is hosting a Policy Forum on Science Based Policy Making: Trends, Tensions & Themes. The first panel is trends in science and environmental decision making; the second panel is case studies in incorporating science in environmental policy making. Contact Erin if interested or go to the [EI event webpage](#)
- Oct 26: Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy is hosting its annual fundraiser. Sean Otto is the featured speaker talking science and policy. For more information, see [MCEA’s event webpage](#).
- On Oct 23, Brian Millberg, City’s energy manager, will present on the path for 100% Renewables for municipal electricity use. This may be informative to, but may not align with the Oct 20 Council meeting where the community-wide 100% Renewable Electricity resolution will be voted on.

Next Meeting: November 1, 4:00-6:00PM City Hall Room 132

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>