

Minneapolis Community Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting

Wednesday November 1, 4:00-6:00pm
Minneapolis City Hall Room 132

Agenda

Attendees: Allan Campbell, Andrew Murray, Bobbie Erichsen, Darrell Gerber, Erin Niehoff, Forrest Theisen, James Nash, Jennifer Kruse, Tony Hainault,

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

Guests/Staff: Kelly Muellman, Luke Hollenkamp, Michael Luke, Halston Sleets, Brian Millberg

4:10 1) Introductions

No quorum to adopt agenda or approve September or October meeting minutes

4:12 2) Member Deep Dive: Darrell Gerber

Darrell grew up on a cattle ranch in northwest Colorado. He went to school for space engineering and worked in robotics and computer vision for manufacturing until making the shift to attend the Humphrey School of Public Affairs where he obtained a Masters of Science, Technology and Environmental Policy. His studies focused on energy and cellulosic ethanol. Since graduating he has worked for Clean Water Action, Freshwater Society and most recently at Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy. He was an original member of the Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota and is currently on the board of Environmental Initiative helping them through a deep dive into organizational diversity and inclusion.

4:20 3) Blueprint for Powering Minneapolis Municipal Operations with 100% Renewable Electricity by 2022 – Brian Millberg, Energy Manager

Brian provided a presentation of the Blueprint for Powering Minneapolis Municipal Operations with 100% Renewable Electricity by 2020 report. The blueprint includes plans to reduce electricity use 16% and cover the remaining electricity use with renewable energy through the following pathways: 1) buy renewable energy credits (RECs), 2) install solar on City property, and 3) subscribe to community solar gardens. The first strategy will cost money, which will be offset by the third strategy which will save the City money. The second strategy will save the City money over time but will have significant upfront costs. The 16% electricity reduction will come from a variety of energy efficiency projects, namely upgraded lighting in buildings and retrofit of City-owned street lights.

This plan was received and filed by City Council and Brian is moving forward with engineering studies for the installation of solar on City property and working with the City's legal department to figure out contracts for future purchases of renewable energy credits.

4:50 4) Proposed Minneapolis Utility Franchise Fee Increase – Halston Sleets, Mayor's Office

Halston provided a brief update on the Mayor's proposal to increase the utility franchise fee and announced upcoming community engagement sessions to get feedback. The franchise fee is proposed to increase by 0.5 percentage points for all customer classes. This will create approximately \$2.8 million for climate and energy funding. The communications plan includes a City website with frequently asked questions, a public hearing on December 4 at the regular Ways & Means meeting, and two information sessions: November 16 from 5:30-7:30pm at Minneapolis Urban League for residents and November 27 from 10am-12pm at City Hall, Room 317 for the business community. The City Council will vote on the franchise fee increase at their

regularly scheduled meeting in December 8. If the City Council approves the increase, the fee will begin to be collected through utility bills in April 2018. Halston asked that those in support of the franchise fee increase show up at the public hearing and make their support known.

5:00 5) CEAC Working Groups Updates

- Energy/Air/Climate Action: 100% Renewable Electricity letter was voted on and submitted to the City Council. The City Council voted to defer the conversation to a future time due to politics.
- Water “Pool Party”: Upper Harbor Terminal letter made it to all stakeholders. MWMO appreciated the letter and said that it was similar to their own thinking. They have offered to keep CEAC informed on progress with the UHT development specifically around stormwater management
- Overburdened Communities: no update
- Waste: Zero Waste Plan will be going to City Council for a vote on December 8. It will be introduced through the Transportation and Public Works (TPW) committee and may go to HECE as well. They incorporated the comments received during the engagement period and do not plan to have a public hearing.

5:10 6) Announcements

- Update on EV Fleet study: Received and filed by City Council. Next steps: Public Works will 1) monitor EV vehicle usage over the winter months (3 Chevy Bolts); 2) monitor funding opportunities (e.g., VW settlement for diesel truck replacements); 3) consider updating vehicle replacement cost model to support higher cost of EV models or consider leasing EVs; 4) plan for/install EV charging infrastructure; and 5) monitor industry progress with EVs. City Council members on the TPW committee expressed their desire that staff move forward aggressively with monitoring and adoption of EV technology.
- CenterPoint Energy is hiring a Local Energy Policy Manager to replace Audrey Partridge who left to join CEE. Among other duties, this position will be the CenterPoint lead contact for the Minneapolis Clean Energy Partnership. Applications due November 7.
- Environmental Initiative is hosting a Policy Forum on December 15 “Evolution of utility resource planning”. Contact Erin Niehoff for a reduced rate registration code.

5:20 7) Working Group Breakouts

- 5:15-6:00 Energy and Water

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

Future speakers: Ellen Kennedy, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Ecological Systems Plan

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>