

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

**Meeting Notes**

**Attendees:** Allan Campbell, Andrew Murray, Bobbie Erichsen, Darrell Gerber, Ellen Kennedy, Erin Niehoff, Forrest Theisen, Michelle Stockness, Lisa Daniels, Jon Stenseth, Thomas Olsen, Tony Hainault,

**Absent:** James Nash, Jenna Grove, Jennifer Kruse, Isaac Russell-Hart, Mohamed Yakub, Ricardo McCurley

**Guests/Staff:** Isabelle Ballet, Kelly Muellman, Luke Hollenkamp,

**4:15 1) Introductions and approval of December Agenda and September, October and November Meeting Minutes**

- Quorum was met and the December agenda was approved as well as the September, October and November meeting minutes.
- Member introductions

**4:20 2) Member Deep Dive: Jon Stenseth**

Jon Stenseth, an environmental engineer has been serving as a CEAC member since January of 2017. He attended the University of Minnesota as well as studied abroad at the University of Melbourne. He earned a bachelor's of science focused on Geology and Environmental Systems. After graduating, Jon started working as an intern with Northwest airlines in their corporate health and safety department. This lead to a full time position working on environmental compliance focused on hazardous waste and storm-water management. Jon still works for Delta managing environmental compliance for Minneapolis across the West Coast of the United States and all of Asia. In this position, Jon makes sure that Delta is operating within compliance with government permits. Jon was interested in getting more involved in local environmental issues and found his way to CEAC.

**4:30 3) Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Ecological Systems Plan – Ellen Kennedy, MPRB**

Presentation of MPRB's draft Ecological Systems Plan (Attachment 1)

Ellen explained that the question that started this project was, "how does the Park Board address environmental impacts in Minneapolis parks?" Understanding that most of these impacts don't originate within the park how can Minneapolis Parks and Recreation still address these issues within their own boundaries? The project started in 2014 with the formation of a community advisory committee, focused on identifying what the key ecological systems were within the park that they wanted to explore. The project had a two year break due to staffing issues but was brought back this year. After identifying the broader themes of the plan (water, air, land and life) Minneapolis Park and Recreation started their phase 1 engagement process.

Minneapolis Park and Recreation is currently looking for feedback before starting their second phase of engagement.

Input voiced from CEAC members

- Include groundwater and shallow groundwater issues.
- Like the inclusion of addressing the relationship between transportation to parks and air quality concerns.
- Include salt use/application. Potentially call it out by name within the degradation of water quality section
- Call out strategies for dealing with invasive species
- Address water-reuse, specifically using storm water recapture to offset irrigation water
- Opportunities for educating communities and communicating within the park board about the work that MPRB is doing
- Ensure urban forest diversity reflects changing climate
- Work with the city resiliency plan
- Partnership are important for successful implementation
- Utilize volunteers, for example citizen arborists, master water stewards (civilian expertise etc.)
- The infographic design is challenging to digest due to the volume of information.
- Clarify strategies for building resiliency in the face of changing water levels.

Members were invited to contact Ellen by email – as well as to report out to other groups  
Email - [ekennedy@minneapolisparcs.org](mailto:ekennedy@minneapolisparcs.org)

#### **5:05 4) Proposed Minneapolis Utility Franchise Fee Increase – Energy/Air/Climate Action Working Group**

Attendees discussed some of the differences between the Energy Vision Advisory Committee (EVAC) and CEAC letters – EVAC’s letter was more detailed around the specific expenditures they did **not** want the money spent from the franchise fee increase. The letter CEAC submitted was closer to the Energy/Climate working group’s mission: greenhouse gas emission reduction. CEAC’s language enables money from the franchise fee to be put towards electric vehicles (EV) and overall was slightly broader to include more funding options.

Luke Hollenkamp provided an update on the public hearing at Ways and Means on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Staff and EVAC Co-chair presented on possible programming for franchise fee increase. About 25 people attended the public hearing and testifiers spoke in favor of increasing the franchise fee. Some testimony asked for a one percentage point increase, more than 0.5 percentage point increase that is proposed.

Next steps: If franchise fee passes there will be a City Council process for how to allocate the funds. EVAC will have a large stake in suggesting recommendations but the authority lies with City Council. CEAC will have the opportunity to weigh in as well, whether it is working directly with EVAC on recommendations, or having a separate stop at a future CEAC meeting.

#### **5:15 5) CEAC Working Groups Updates**

- Energy/Air/Climate Action: Working to put together some EV principles/guidelines for the city – Will have recommendations to CEAC in Jan or Feb to be adopted early in the term of the new City Council. The group also

suggested that they might want to work more closely with EVAC and grow their working partnership.

- Water “Pool Party”: Short article on salt use put in the Ward 1 newsletter. Will try and reach out with the special service district to understand what they might be doing to try and limit salt use on the sidewalks. Following updates around the State’s salt liability bill.
- Overburdened Communities- No updates
- Waste: There was a question about the stats of the City’s Green-To-Go ordinance and whether City Council would vote to remove the exemption for to-go cups. Staff will check and follow-up.

**5:25 6) Announcements**

- Minneapolis Comprehensive Plan ([www.minneapolis2040.com](http://www.minneapolis2040.com)) (Attachment 2)
  - Online engagement
- In-person meetings
  - Event- Environment Initiative is hosting a policy forum series titled, “The Evolution of Resource Planning: Designing for Disruption” - Friday December 15<sup>th</sup>
- The Park Board’s molesting vegetation ordinance has changed allowing for urban agriculture to go forth in designated urban agriculture areas. People can now pick from fruit and nut trees in certain areas around the city.

**5:34 7) Adjourn & Working Group Breakouts**

**Next Meeting: January 3, 4:00-6:00PM City Hall Room 132**

Future speakers/topics: Annual CEAC report to City Council