

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

CEAC Members Present: Forrest Theisen, Darrell Gerber, Jon Stenseth, Bobbie Erichsen, Jennifer Kruse, Allan Campbell, Ellen Kennedy, Andrew Murray, Thomas Olsen, Erin Niehoff

Staff: Leah Skjefte, Kelly Muellman, Luke Hollenkamp, Isabelle Ballet, Karlee Weinman

Guests: Jordan Kaplan, Michelle Shaw

CEAC members unable to attend: Tony Hainault, Lisa Daniels, Jenna Grove, James Nash, Michelle Stockness, Mohamed Yakub

### 4:00 1) Introductions and approval of April Agenda and March Meeting Minutes Group has approved agenda and minutes

- Quorum was met and the agenda/meeting minutes were adopted

### 4:10 2) Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board's draft Garden Policy

- CEAC member Ellen Kennedy was present and able to speak to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's (MPRB) draft Garden Policy. The policy looks at deploying community gardening efforts in the parks. The Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council is working on a letter of support for the policy while also advocating for more resources so that MPRB can help fund the community gardens, make necessary gardening tools available and increase staffing. The Food Council is also encouraging the MPRB to continue to look at racial equity and have equity specifically addressed in the policy.
- CEAC will not be writing a letter in support due to the short turnaround time but the draft policy is available on the MPRB's website as well as a comment portal.

### 4:20 3) Letter of Support for Expiration of Exemption of To-Go Cups in Green-to-Go Ordinance (Bobbie Erichsen)

Introducing letter of support for the expiration of the exemption for to-go cups in the City's Green-to-Go Ordinance. Exemption is proposed to expire Earth Day 2019 (Health Department).

- CEAC approved the letter

### 4:30 4) Approval of Letters of Support for Franchise Fee Funds and 100% Renewable Electricity Resolution

The Energy/Climate working group will present their final letters of support for the Minneapolis Franchise fee increase expenditures in 2018 and for the 100% Renewable Electricity Resolution.

#### Franchise Fee Letter

- Group approved the letter (Ellen Kennedy abstained due to MPRB not having an official stance on this issue)

#### 100% Renewable Electricity Resolution

- A student representing iMatter was present and asked the group why two of iMatter's recommendations were left out. In the letter there is no mention of 1) 25% electricity generated in city limits and 2) A study to look at reaching the goal by 2025 instead of 2030.
- CEAC acknowledged that both of those recommendations were left out because the policy is already aggressive and they did not want to stick another numeric goal into the policy when bringing it before City Council. Also wanted to acknowledge that this work will take time to get going and that 2030 is a more realistic goal for the policy.
- Members of CEAC had concerns around the wording of the policy. After discussion it was decided that the phrase "local energy sources will increase resilience and prevent the dislocation of important agricultural resources" should be replaced with, "local energy sources will increase resilience and a local and equitable energy economy"
- After the changes were agreed upon the letter was approved (Ellen Kennedy abstained due to MPRB not having an official stance on this issue)

#### **4:30 5) Group Norms/Values Discussion – Elevating Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (Erin)**

CEAC Chair, Erin Niehoff asked CEAC to "think about a time when you were part of a meeting and you felt left out and were not able to have meaningful participation. What about that meeting made you feel that way? Keeping in mind someone whose race and/ or culture might not be represented by CEAC right now, what are some of the things that might make them feel excluded when coming into this room? What are some of the important issues for CEAC to address related to racial and ethnic diversity, equity and inclusion?"

- Group shared stories about times they have felt uncomfortable or unwelcomed in spaces similar to CEAC.

How could CEAC be more inclusive?

- 1) Welcoming visitors and new members into the space. Provide background information to new members about the structure of CEAC as well as how the committee influences City Council decisions.
- 2) Introductions to new members as well as check-ins with ongoing members about the agreed upon goals, group norms and values.
- 3) Look at how CEAC positions are structured. Tension exists around technical positions/expert positions and community positions. For example, some of the environmental and larger organizations represented in CEAC have seats at many tables; is this really the space for them? For many people a barrier to participation might be the high level at which issues are discussed. CEAC needs to think about what a different form of representation would look like. For example, is that having more Wards represented (geographic diversity) or is that having more community voices?
- 4) When changing the structure of CEAC seats the group is not certain that creating quotas is the best way, but the option should be explored for its pros and cons.
- 5) Understanding that subject matter needs to feel personally relevant (socially, culturally etc.) for people to want to apply and actively participate in CEAC.

Next Steps:

- 1) Reviewing the charge of the Committee. CEAC would like to understand what City Council wants/expects from them.

#### **5:15 6) Discussion of Amendments to CEAC Resolution/Composition (Erin)**

- As CEAC looks at the potential addition of youth positions it would be helpful if CEAC could incorporate other changes around CEAC's structure to the enabling resolution at the same time.
- With the addition of youth positions quorum would change. It is important to think about what a term length would look like for a youth position. Since youth at this age are more mobile a two year commitment might be too long. It is also important to consider possibly changing CEAC's recruitment time frame so that is better matches the school year calendar.

- Would need to pass something by September for recruitment changes.

**5:25 7) Discussion and Adoption of 2018 CEAC Work Plan (small groups)**

Reflecting on Group Norms/Values conversation, review proposed 2018 CEAC working group Work Plan items and adopt 2018 CEAC Work Plan.

- Using an equity lens how are we making sure that we are incorporating overburdened communities into the work?
- Small groups broke out to discuss their Work Plans. No formal vote was taken.

**5:55 8) Announcements**

- Sustainability Manager position posted through April 10
- Water Action Day, May 5<sup>th</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/events/182717125845853??ti=ia>
- Earth Day MPRB Clean Ups:  
[https://www.minneapolisparks.org/activities\\_events/events/earth\\_day\\_cleanup/](https://www.minneapolisparks.org/activities_events/events/earth_day_cleanup/)
- Mpls Green Teams gathering: May 3<sup>rd</sup> 7pm Whittier Park – Neighborhood Green Team meet up Sponsored by Minneapolis Climate Action and Alliance for Sustainability

**6:00 10) Adjourn**

**Next Meeting: May 2, 4:00-6:00PM City Hall Room 132**

May: City of Minneapolis Downtown Building – Sustainability elements presentation

June: Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan presentation

City Council's **P**ublic Health, **E**nvironment, **C**ivil Rights and Community **E**ngagement (PECE) Committee (typically meets 1:30PM, every other Monday)

Quorum: 9 (19 members, including one vacancy – Public Schools appointee)

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability/teams/ceac-meetings>