

Minneapolis Community Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting

Wednesday May 7th, 4:00-6:00pm

Minneapolis City Hall Room 132

Attendance

CEAC members: Allan Campbell, Bobbie Erichsen, Darrell Gerber, Erin Niehoff, Forrest Theisen, James Nash, Michelle Shaw, Michelle Stockness, Tony Hainault

Staff: Kelly Muellman, Luke Hollenkamp, Isabelle Ballet, Brian Millberg, Greg Goeke

Guests: Ethan Feldman, Bridget Dockter, Al Swintek, Emma Schoppe, Matt Kazinka, Mike Luke, Consolidated Office Building consultants

CEAC members unable to attend: Andrew Murray, Ellen Kennedy, Jenna Grove, Jennifer Kruse, Jon Stenseth, Lisa Daniels, Mohamed Yakub, Thomas Olsen

4:00 1) Introductions and approval of May Agenda and April Meeting Minutes

- Quorum has met and the meeting minutes and agenda were approved at 5:10pm

4:10 2) Downtown Campus building – Sustainability Elements (Greg Goeke, Property Services)

Greg Goeke from Minneapolis Property Services and consultants for the City of Minneapolis presented on the planned New Public Service Building/City Hall Renovation Project, specifically focusing on proposed sustainability elements.

The City is consolidating staff from multiple owned and rented offices across downtown into this new Public Service Building and City Hall. The building will be constructed on the site of an existing parking garage on Government Plaza, and stand 11 stories tall. The building will meet LEED Gold certification as well as Fitwel certification (focused on occupant health and wellbeing). There will be no car parking, but robust bicycle parking. Design has incorporated resiliency, stormwater filtration and reuse, energy efficiency, day-lighting, renewable energy, waste reduction and bird-safe façade. Most of the mechanical systems and design has been confirmed, with more decisions on the final façade and window characteristics to be decided in the next month or so.

- See attachment A for the presentation

4:40 3) Group Values Discussion – Purpose of CEAC (Erin Niehoff, Chair)

CEAC Chair, Erin Niehoff led participants in a group discussion on values and review of CEAC's charge.

- CEAC was formed in 1990 and was formerly staffed by the environmental coordinating team before Sustainability took over. It has gone through two name changes in 1994 and 2014.

To start the conversation, CEAC members were asked: Why did you join CEAC? (Discussion themes and summary)

- Interest in being in contact with what initiatives and policies are happening at the City

- Being able to engage with big picture environmental issues.
- Being able to participate in a technical body that has a special “ear” in the City to break down information for City Council and staff.
- Wanting to gain awareness around what is happening to combat climate change and environmental issues at the state, city and neighborhood level.
- Concerned about climate change and clean air.

What do you want to change? Role of CEAC?

- Is there a way that CEAC can do a better job representing neighborhoods?
- Are we a community voice or are we just a group of people interested in environmental issues?
- How can the work that CEAC does be communicated out?
- The enabling resolution should be edited to include something directly addressing equity
- It is important for CEAC to think about what they can accomplish with the time and resources that it has. The more it tries to do the less successful it will be.
- Would like to see CEAC engaging in more specific things that the public is concerned about.
- Where can CEAC have the most benefit? The City can hire technical expertise when needed.
- Struggle between engaging community but also seeing the value as serving/assisting the city with technical expertise.
- Establish a working group around community engagement to work on passing on information out to the public.
- Bridge the gap between all of the different types of expertise in CEAC

5:25 4) Green Zone update (Kelly Muellman, Sustainability Division)

Kelly provided a progress update on the Southside Green Zone and timeline for the Northside Green Zone.

- See attachment B for the presentation
- CEAC asked how they could engage with and contribute to the Green Zone Initiative. CEAC’s written and verbal support of the work plan once it is ready to go to City Council will be a great contribution. Some of the Action Items may be good projects for CEAC to help tackle, but prioritization and finalization within the Task Force must happen first. Kelly will return with more updates in June and July.

5:40 5) CEAC Working Group Updates

- Energy/Air/Climate Action – Has been working on electric vehicles and updating the green fleet policy. They have also been commenting on the transportation sections of the comprehensive plan. Looking into ordinance changes for electric vehicle infrastructure.
- Water “Pool Party” – Have not been too active recently. Would like everyone to know that the MPCA is looking for volunteers around water testing.
- Zero Waste – Hennepin county is revising their recycling ordinance – when open for stakeholder comments CEAC can hopefully write a letter

5:55 9) Announcements

- Mpls Green Team meeting – May 3rd @ Whittier Park 7-9PM
- Job opening Minneapolis Climate Action Director <http://www.mplsclimate.org/ed.html>

6:00 10) Adjourn

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

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>