

Resolution of the City of Minneapolis

By Gordon and Cunningham

Reframing the Minneapolis Community Environmental Advisory Commission (CEAC) to emphasize, be more inclusive of, and led by, community voices.

Whereas, the City works with businesses and communities to achieve environmental outcomes that enhance the quality of life and work in Minneapolis;

Whereas, the Mayor and City Council have set as one of the City's top goals that Minneapolis shall be a City where the local environment is clean and healthful for all occupants and which recognizes its share of responsibility on behalf of future generations for addressing global environmental challenges;

Whereas, the City Council passes resolutions and policies aimed at improving health and supporting economic development using environmentally conscious efforts citywide and especially in communities that face the cumulative effects of environmental pollution, as well as social, political, and economic vulnerability, such as Green Zones and the Minneapolis Climate Action Plan, and has engaged the City's Sustainability Division to pass such resolutions;

Whereas, the City's appointed Boards and Commissions provide an opportunity to hear directly from residents and stakeholders, and policy decisions are improved through local knowledge and increased buy-in in impacted communities, which can lead to more effective implementation and community empowerment for positive change;

Whereas, participation on a city board or commission gives members detailed insight into city enterprise and city wide operations and policies, and the opportunity to provide recommendations to influence the city's operations and policies; and

Whereas the City now recognizes and is actively addressing the severity of environmental injustice within its jurisdiction;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the permanent advisory body founded in April 1990 as the Minneapolis Environmental Commission (MEC), renamed in 1994 as the Minneapolis Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee, and renamed again as the Minneapolis Community Environmental Advisory Commission (CEAC) in 2006, be reorganized as set forth below so that it may better advise on the environmental effects of City policies, programs, and projects with local or global impacts in a more inclusive, equitable, just, and culturally responsive manner.

Be It Further Resolved that the duties and membership of the CEAC are as follows:

- 1) The CEAC shall work closely with the Sustainability Division to provide policy and program advice and comments to the City Council and City staff. CEAC may suggest environmental priorities for City policies, programs, and projects using criteria including but not limited to natural and built environmental impact, community impact, timeliness, environmental justice, and equity.

- 2) The CEAC membership should represent those who live and work within the City of Minneapolis, inclusive of Indigenous persons, communities of color, low-income residents, LGBTQ persons, persons of varying ages (particularly those under the age of 24 and over 70), persons with disabilities, and other marginalized communities that hold knowledge and expertise on issues related to the environment and environmental justice. Recruitment will be consistent with the equity recommendations of the City's Neighborhood Community Relations. The CEAC shall consist of 19 members appointed as follows:
 - 13 residents, appointed by the City Council, who are general community representatives and residents of the City, with a goal of balanced representation across wards;
 - 6 persons from environmental advocacy, business, industry, and/or public agencies, to be appointed by the Mayor, with a variety of professional, technical, and policy expertise across topics, including environmental justice, air, energy, waste, and water.

All members shall be nominated and appointed for 2 year terms in accordance with the City's Open Appointment process, as set forth in the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances, Section 14.180. Appointed members may be replaced following the Open Appointment process if they miss three consecutive monthly meetings without contacting the CEAC member chair, vice chair, or City staff person.

Be It Further Resolved that the City Sustainability Division shall have primary responsibility for staffing and recruiting the CEAC, in collaboration with CEAC members and elected officials. The CEAC may from time to time ask the Sustainability Division to arrange for additional staff from other City departments who may be more appropriate for a specific task or issue.

Be It Further Resolved that the effective date of this Resolution shall be September 12, 2018.