

Minneapolis Community Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting

Wednesday November 7, 4:00-6:00 PM
Minneapolis City Hall Room 132

Agenda

CEAC Attendees: Allan Campbell, Darrell Gerber, Erin Niehoff, Forrest Theisen, Jennifer Kruse, Jon Stenseth, Lisa Daniels, Michelle Shaw, Michelle Stockness, Tony Hainault

CEAC Members unable to attend: Andrew Murray, Bobbie Erichsen, Ellen Kennedy, James Nash, Jenna Grove, Mohamed Yakub, Ricardo McCurley, Tom Olsen

Staff: Kelly Muellman, Kim Havey, Mary Timm, Ann Calvert, Hilary Holmes, Tamara Downs Schwei

Guests: Kyle Samejima, Mike Luke, Michael Chaney, Catherine Fleming, Roxxanne O'Brien, Robin Ganser

1) Introductions

CEAC Chair Erin Niehoff opened the meeting, noting that there was no quorum to approve agenda or minutes. Attendees went around the room and introduced themselves.

2) Upper Harbor Terminal update

Erin provided background on CEAC's interest in the Upper Harbor Terminal from an environment and justice standpoint, as well as her own concerns in how CEAC engages in the project since none of the members currently are Northside residents. Guest speakers were invited to speak about the work they are doing and how CEAC can support them.

The first speaker was Roxxanne O'Brien who spoke about her activism and successes around Northern Metals and the Green Zone initiative. She discussed the importance of partnerships, particularly with Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy and Project Sweetie Pie. She is working on two bills with Representative Fue Lee: one on cumulative pollution impacts and another on a Food, Farm and Water bill. Roxxanne mentioned working with Thor on a community benefits agreement for the Upper Harbor Terminal development.

Michael Chaney and Catherine Fleming, representing Project Sweetie Pie, recognized the national importance of the Upper Harbor Terminal project because of its location at the Headwaters of the Mississippi as well as the local importance of the project its potential for transformative change in how North Minneapolis residents interact with the river. Michael and Catherine are supporting a community-driven vision of an Environmental Center/EcoVillage on the site that connects residents to the river from an ecological point of view. Catherine emphasized the need for more resident involvement in the project development, particularly from McKinley neighborhood. Also, the need for more notable leaders to be part of the project from across professional organizations and agencies. Their vision for development includes more jobs, reduced cost per square foot, co-ownership, and community ownership.

Next came updates from City of Minneapolis and Design Team including Ann Calvert (City of Minneapolis) and Robin Ganser (Coen + Partners). Ann provided a background on the City's process, starting with review of existing documents (Above the Falls, RiverFirst, etc.), selection of the Development Team, and engagement that has been incorporated into the Concept Plan. The Concept Plan is scheduled to go in front of City Council for a vote in January 2019. Public comments are being reviewed to determine if any changes need to be made to the Concept Plan before it is brought to City Council. Robin spoke to some of the community engagement the Development Team has been involved in.

Following the presentations, the floor was opened for questions. There was so much interest from CEAC members and guests in the discussion that it was decided to postpone all other agenda items for the December CEAC meeting.

A lot of the questions centered around community engagement: who was engaged, how were they engaged, what questions were asked, and whether there would be a community coordinating team. A couple questions centered on the surrounding area, including how the UHT will be developed in context of surrounding land uses, whether there were plans for those other privately-held lands, and what was the plan for transportation connections, including the Dowling bridge, a potential freeway lid, and transit access. Another issue that was raised was the environmental impacts of the development, including what the plan was for district energy, stormwater management, renewable energy, and net-zero energy buildings.

As next steps, CEAC will write a letter to the City Council and the Development Team outlining its recommendations, specifically focusing on a co-creation team, environmental elements, connection to the Green Zones priorities, connection to EcoDistricts, and thoughts on extending the timeline for the Concept Plan. It was also proposed that CEAC intentionally track progress on UHT development over the next two years. This will be up to the 2019-2020 cohort to decide.

3) Adjourn

Meeting concluded approximately 6:15 p.m.

Next Meeting: December 5, 4:00-6:00PM City Hall Room 132

December speakers/topic:

1. Residential Energy Efficiency Policies – Katie Jones, Robin Garwood, Karlee Weinmann, Isaac Smith
 - Multifamily Benchmarking
 - Truth in Sale of Housing (TISH)
 - Time of Rent energy cost disclosure
 - Discussion
2. Biochar & Regenerative Urban Agriculture (Health Dept)

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>