

# Community Environmental Advisory Commission

12/5/2018 Meeting

4:00-6:00 p.m.

City Hall room 132

**CEAC members in attendance:** Allan Campbell, Darrell Gerber, Erin Niehoff, Forrest Theisen, Jennifer Kruse, Michelle Shaw, Michelle Stockness.

**CEAC members unable to attend:** Andrew Murray, Bobbie Erichsen, Ellen Kennedy, James Nash, Jenna Grove, Jon Stenseth, Lisa Daniels, Mohamed Yakub, Ricardo McCurley, Thomas Olsen, and Tony Hainault.

**City of Minneapolis staff and aides:** Kelly Muellman, Kennedy Kruchoski, Claire Baglien, Karlee Weinmann, Robin Garwood, Katie Jones, and Kellie Kish.

**Guests:** Isaac Smith, Molly Ellis, Kyle Samejima, Nick Minderman, and Katie Hill Brandt.

## 1) Introductions and approval of December Agenda and November Meeting Minutes

Erin Niehoff called the meeting to order. Quorum was not met. There was no vote on the December Agenda or November meeting minutes. Attendees introduced themselves.

## 2) Residential Energy Efficiency Policies - Katie Jones, Robin Garwood, Karlee Weinmann, Isaac Smith

Council Members Schroeder and Gordon are championing a set of policies that would encourage the disclosure of energy use for residential units in Minneapolis. The goal of these new and updated policies is to empower Minneapolis residents and to make sure they have that information to use in their housing decisions, and to improve transparency in the residential marketplace.

Three specific policies are being proposed. The first is an expansion of the current Truth In Sale of Housing (TISH) policy to include an energy disclosure component. Currently, the information provided doesn't reflect whether there is wall insulation, air sealing, or other energy-efficiency-related information. TISH affects single unit and duplex buildings. The second policy is an expansion of existing Commercial Building Benchmarking program to include multi-unit residential buildings 50,000 square feet or larger. The last policy will be addressing time of lease (TOL) energy disclosure for buildings smaller than 50,000 square feet.

It is intended for these new and updated policies to accurately reflect the goals from the City of Minneapolis 2013 Climate Action Plan, improve the energy literacy of Minneapolis residents, and stimulate the market for energy efficiency improvements. Currently, the City of Minneapolis is not close to achieving the goals set in the Climate Action Plan for residential building energy efficiency improvements. Benchmarking is being done, but not for residential buildings.

Equity is an important piece of these efforts. 52% of Minneapolis residents are renters, and there is very little recourse available to them to have their landlords make energy efficiency upgrades to their

buildings. These policies would hopefully give a broader view of what residents are entering into with their lease.

The presenters are hoping to bring these forward for a vote near the end of January or early February, and would appreciate CEAC drafting a letter of support for these policies. There will be a public hearing on these topics on Jan 7th, 6:30 pm, in City Hall room 319. It would also be helpful for the presenters to have a CEAC voice present. They also request assistance in spreading the word to other organizations that CEAC members are affiliated with, potentially receiving letters of support from those organizations as well.

### **3) Bring Your Own Bag ordinance – Kellie Kish and Robin Garwood**

Robin Garwood provided a background of the Bring Your Own Bag (“BYOB”) ordinance. CEAC came up with recommendations to adopt a prohibition on retail establishments providing plastic bags and putting a fee on paper bags. An initial ordinance was adopted by City Council in 2016 banning plastic bags and putting a five-cent fee on paper bags. A day before the ban would go into effect in 2017, the State preempted cities from being able to ban bags of any kind, but did not preempt fees on bags.

The ordinance was brought forward again in early 2018 without the prohibition language but still including the fee, but that was voted to be tabled. City Council requested that staff get more input from small businesses and lower income residents.

Now, the City is looking to move this forward and finish this work. This iteration of the proposal is very similar to the last proposal. It includes a five-cent fee on paper and plastic bags, and wouldn’t apply to customers using food assistance (SNAP, EBT, WIC).

CEAC has been asked to take a look at this ordinance again. The City is hoping to get something passed in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2019.

Erin Niehoff clarified that Robin and Kellie might be asked to come speak on this again in February to the new CEAC group. In terms of energy side of things, current CEAC might try to write a letter in next few days and then take it to an online vote. This is a difficult time for getting things written. A January 28th deadline is impossible for new members to get through. Current CEAC could draft a letter and testimony for someone to give, and it could be carried forward by one of the 6 people staying on through next year.

### **4) Debrief on Upper Harbor Terminal CEAC letter**

Erin Niehoff provided a brief background of the Upper Harbor Terminal project. The letter CEAC wrote and was approved and has been sent to City Council members. It has been posted on the [CEAC website](#). There is interest in including the letter in neighborhood newsletters.

Regarding future opportunities to engage in UHT Planning, there is a meeting on December 6, 2018 on the Upper Harbor Terminal design hosted by Environmental Initiative. It will take place at the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization headquarters in NE Minneapolis, at 9am.

Also, Council Member Cunningham is hosting an engagement meeting on the Upper Harbor Terminal on Saturday, 12/8. The current plan needs to go before Council committee (on January 8<sup>th</sup>) before going to the full City Council.

## 5) Recognition of 2017-2018 CEAC members

Kelly Muellman recognized outgoing CEAC members and passed out certificates signed by Mayor Frey and Council Member Cunningham, giving thanks for their work and contributions to the City of Minneapolis. Departing members were asked to share advice for ongoing members. They offered: Don't be afraid to be uncomfortable; Be inquisitive; You represent the whole city, so be an active listener.

## 6) Announcements

- City Council unanimously adopted changes to the [CEAC enabling Resolution](#).
- City Council approval of 2019-2020 CEAC. [2019-2020 CEAC membership](#) was approved by the Public Health, Environment, Civil Rights and Engagement (PECE) committee and will be fully adopted by the full City Council on Friday, December 7.
- Bloomberg American Cities Climate Challenge (ACCC)
  - Minneapolis and Saint Paul both selected for the Challenge
  - Resources from the Challenge will accelerate current climate work. Each city will receive around \$2 million in technical assistance.
  - Might be possibility of CEAC helping and providing letters of support or advice to the City about those projects.
- Upcoming UHT engagement meetings (and other UHT announcements):
  - For people who want to join the discussion and get updates on community engagement events: Send an email to: [team@ecoharbor.org](mailto:team@ecoharbor.org)
  - Here is a Facebook event from the Co-Creation team that will be happening before the Saturday December 8th community meeting:  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/593033787802317/>
  - And here is the meeting announcement from the city for the community meeting this Saturday December 8th: <http://upperharbormpls.com/upcoming-events/>
  - Check with Kyle: were all of the meetings she mentioned covered here?
- Darrell: EI policy forum on source water protection on 12/18, 1-4:30 pm at Plymouth Creek Center.
- Saturday, 12/8, MN350 partnering with Sierra Club to host a “we can stop line 3” event 1-3.
- Today is World Soil day.

## Adjourn & Optional off-site end-of-term celebration