

Community Environmental Advisory Commission

1/3/2019 Meeting

6:00-8:00 p.m.

City Hall room 132

CEAC members in attendance: Anthony Varriano, Brady Steigauf, Davit Watts, Erin Niehoff, Jason Alvey, Jimmy Randolph, Katie Hill Brandt, Marianna Hefte, Michelle Shaw, Molly Ellis, Nicholas Minderman, Sandy Fazeli, Tim Sexton, and Tom Olsen.

CEAC members unable to attend: Cody Welchin, Forrest Theisen, Lisa Daniels, and Nicole Bauchnight.

City of Minneapolis staff and aides: Kim Havey, Kelly Muellman, and Kennedy Kruchoski.

Guests: Mike Luke and Brian Zakem

1) Affirmation of Oath of Office

City Clerk, Casey Carl, administered the Affirmation of the Oath of Office for CEAC members shortly after 6pm.

2) Introductions & Ice-Breaker

Erin Niehoff welcomed the new CEAC members, and noted that while she is still currently chair of the commission, elections for chair and vice chair will happen at next month's meeting. Nominations for those positions will be accepted until then.

Michelle Shaw introduced and read the following statement:

As we meet here today, we are reminded that Minneapolis is situated on the homelands of the Dakota people. An area that is steeped in rich Indigenous history, and today is home to Indigenous people from more than 30 different nations. As a City, we have a responsibility to care for the land on which we live and work and all of its natural surroundings. This stewardship is an integral part of our involvement in this commission, and we honor it as we begin our meeting.

This statement will be read at the start of each meeting moving forward.

Kim Havey, Director of Sustainability, welcomed CEAC members and reflected on the importance of their voice in environmental actions and City policy making.

Erin invited CEAC members to play an icebreaker game called Bingo-to-Meet-You. Then members introduced themselves and shared what they're most passionate about within the topic of sustainability.

3) CEAC History & Highlights

Kelly Muellman and Erin Niehoff provided an overview of the history of CEAC, touching on some of the most impactful and significant work done by the group over the past several years.

The purpose of CEAC is to act as an advisory body to the Mayor, City Council, and City staff about anything relating to the environment. CEAC is a long-standing body, originating in 1990. Just this past November, an enabling resolution was passed, originating from a lack of sustained racial and geographic diversity and youth voices in the commission. The enabling resolution is an effort to be more inclusive of and equitable to all Minneapolis residents. Similarly, Minneapolis City Council has asked to improve the capacity of appointed boards to advance the City's racial equity work in the recently released Strategic and Racial Equity Action Plan (S+REAP). These meetings should be a space where potentially difficult topics can be discussed, being clear about how the priorities selected by the group impact *all* residents of Minneapolis.

It is mentioned that this group will have the opportunity to split into working groups to focus on specific issues. This will be discussed later this meeting.

Kelly provided an overview of the selection process for CEAC members.

CEAC is looking for opportunities to be visible in the community, showing community members that this specific group exists, at various events and public locations throughout the City of Minneapolis.

4) CEAC's Operations & 2019 Priorities

Erin provided an overview of CEAC structure, rules, and bylaws, acknowledging that they are out of date and need to be updated to align with updates to the CEAC Enabling Resolution changes in late 2018.

CEAC advises by working in small teams (or subcommittees), bringing interesting ideas forward for letters and in written policy. Occasionally, members might present or speak at Council committee meetings. Non-members are able to take part in subcommittees and contribute to that work.

City staff is the first point of contact for questions and concerns. Within the City of Minneapolis there are many boards and commissions, and there might be some natural overlap between what CEAC does and what some of those groups do. The Energy Vision Advisory Committee (EVAC) makes recommendations to the Clean Energy Partnership board. The Clean Energy Partnership is a unique collaboration between the City of Minneapolis, Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy. EVAC is similar to CEAC, but focuses on energy issues. There may be opportunities for interaction between these two bodies. Both groups contributed to the 100% Renewable Electricity resolution that was passed by the City in April of 2018, as well as the franchise fee increase. The Food Council and both Green Zones are also managed through the sustainability division, and there may be a lot of overlap between the work of these groups and of CEAC.

5) Brainstorm topics and subcommittees for 2019

Kelly Muellman facilitated an exercise where members shared their preferred areas of focus. The topics that members would like to see addressed in subcommittees include:

- Air quality
- Climate – 100% renewable electricity
- Sustainable transportation
 - Minneapolis 2040 – Bloomberg ACCC
 - Lessen the City's reliance on internal combustion engines

- Cross-committee collaboration: Implement modal priorities
- Modal priority framework
 - Making the environmental case
- Climate and food systems
- Carbon sequestration
- Pollinators
 - Rain gardens
- Environmental Justice
 - Survey/Community engagement
 - Climate justice/activism
 - Community beautification
- Green workforce
 - Be mindful of opportunities and who benefits
- Environmental Equity
 - Building weatherization
 - This is a topic that is will be prioritized in all subcommittees, topics and issues.
- Carbon sequestration
 - Climate and food systems
- Upper Harbor Terminal
 - Receive input from the public and the residents in the area
- “Bring your own bag” ordinance
- Bylaw updates

Subcommittees can be created or dissolved at any time.

6) Next Steps

Erin asked whether the group wants to meet at a location other than City Hall. Suggestions include hosting meetings in Green Zones, at libraries, along the light rail or at other relatively central areas, and in other locations that would increase the visibility of the group. Members are encouraged to suggest meeting locations.

Erin will share a link to the Google Drive folder for CEAC.

Members are asked to send completed contact sheets and a photo of themselves to Kelly.

Members are asked to consider whether they would like to be Chair or Vice Chair. Individual members can nominate themselves for either of those positions, or can be nominated by others in the group.

Members are asked to let Kelly know ahead of time if they are unable to attend a meeting. The new enabling resolution allows the body to remove members who consistently do not attend meetings or participate in the group’s efforts.

7) Announcements

Remember to complete the [ethics training](#).

Upcoming events:

- Upper Harbor Terminal Co-Creation team meeting at North Regional Library Monday, January 7 from 2:30-4.
 - The concept plan for the Upper Harbor Terminal is going before City Council Economic Development and Regulatory Services committee on Tuesday, January 22nd at 1:30 p.m in City Hall, City Council Chambers (room 317). If it passes, the Concept Plan would go before the City Council on February 1st at 9:30 a.m. in City Hall, City Council Chambers (room 317).
- The governor's inauguration ceremony is next Saturday, January 12 at the Orpheum Theater. [Tickets](#) are free, but need to be reserved.
- [Minneapolis Green Teams meeting](#): Thursday Jan 17th, 7:00 pm, Cleveland Neighborhood Association, 3333 Penn Ave N, Minneapolis, MN 55412
- Environmental Initiative event on January 18th.
- Saturday, Jan 26th 10:00 a.m. at Venture North coffee and bikes: discussion of environmental current events, priorities of residents regarding environmental issues. Hosted by CEAC member Anthony Varriano the last Saturday of every month. Contact Anthony (varriano34@gmail.com or (651) 674-374) for more information.
- [Minneapolis Community Connections Conference](#) on Feb 2nd at the Minneapolis Convention Center. CEAC will have an information table. Register now!
- Thursday, January 31 3:30-5:30 p.m. [Our Future, Our Right: Launch the MN Green New Deal w MN Youth](#) at the MN State Capitol.
- Statewide networking event for environmental commission volunteers in early April. More information to come

The next CEAC meeting will take place February 7th, 2019, 6:00-8:00 pm. Location to be determined.

Adjourn