

Community Environmental Advisory Commission

Regular Meeting

March 7, 2019 – 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Minneapolis Central Library, Doty Board Room, 300 Nicollet Mall

CEAC members in attendance: Cody Welchlin, Erin Niehoff, Marianna Hefte, Allan Campbell, Nicholas Minderman, Lisa Daniels, Tim Sexton, Katie Hill Brandt, Brady Steigauf, Anthony Varriano, Thomas Olsen, Jason Alvey, Jimmy Randolph, Michelle Shaw, Sandy Fazeli, and Tim Sexton.

CEAC members unable to attend: David Watts, Forrest Theisen, Molly Ellis, and Nicole Bauknight.

City of Minneapolis staff and aides: Kelly Muellman, Kennedy Kruchoski, and David Herberholz.

Guests: Jeff Meek, Brian Zakem, Andrea Siegel, Daisy Buenrostro, Say Yang, and Fiona Schiro.

Call to Order and Introductions

At 6:03 Erin Niehoff called the meeting to order 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.

Members and guests introduced themselves, indicating whether they were a CEAC Member, what Ward they lived in, and their favorite part of spring.

Adoption of the Agenda and Acceptance of Minutes of January 3, 2019

Motion was made and seconded to approve agenda and minutes from last meeting.

Election: Chair and Vice-Chair for 2019

Erin provided an overview of the bylaws that dictate the roles of Chair and Vice Chair. Responsibilities of the Chair include putting together agenda, facilitating meetings, addressing and troubleshooting other issues presented to CEAC between meetings, and working closely with City staff. The Chair also appoints and dissolves standing committees, subcommittees, and special task forces. The Vice Chair fills in when the Chair is absent, and performs other supportive activities as they are willing and able. Once these overviews were provided, members were nominated for the positions.

Erin Niehoff was nominated for Chair by Brady Steigauf and Allan Campbell. For Vice Chair, Cody Welchlin was nominated by Kelly Muellman, and Anthony Varriano and David Watts each nominated themselves. Nominees were then given the opportunity to give a short statement to other members about why they were a good fit for the position before voting took place. Kelly Muellman read a prepared statement from David Watts who was not present. Cody Welchlin declined her nomination.

Members submitted their written votes for Chair and Vice Chair. Erin Niehoff received 14 votes, David Watts received 8 votes, and Anthony Varriano received 7 votes. The Chair position will continue to be held by Erin, and David will take the position of Vice Chair.

Presentation: Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance – Robin Garwood

Robin Garwood, Policy Aide to Council Member Cam Gordon, provided an overview of the history of the City's Bring Your Own Bag ordinance. Originally, this ordinance would have prohibited retail establishments from providing single-use plastic bags and charged a \$0.05 fee on single-use paper bags. After the bill initially passed in 2015, State legislature then voted in favor of a bill that prevented the City from enforcing the ordinance. The ordinance was brought forward again without the prohibition language, but including a 5-cent fee which would be kept by the merchant, with an exception for food assistance customers. This fee is intended to act as a disincentive without being a burden on customers, and was chosen based on best management practices across the country. Enforcement could occur in tandem with health inspection visits, and can also be triggered by complaints.

Robin distributed a survey (also available [online](#)) to get feedback on the ordinance, and requested that CEAC members respond to the survey and share it with others. The survey will be shared with organizations and groups in lower income communities and communities of color throughout Minneapolis. Another request for CEAC is that the group takes a formal position on the ordinance in the next month or two. After the ordinance passes, information and updates could continue to be shared with CEAC, such as the roll out of the ordinance and what is learned in the process. The ordinance will be presented to the City Council's Public Health, Environment, Civil Rights and Engagement (PECE) committee in the second quarter of 2019.

CEAC members want the Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance to push further that it does, such as not keeping the exception for restaurants and carry-out items, increasing the fee, and providing informational materials for retailers to display, preventing the need for more time being spent at checkout.

On March 6th there was a State Legislature informational hearing at the Capitol about removing the prohibition of cities banning single use bags. While there may eventually be a state-wide ban, it seems unlikely that action will be taken to remove the prohibition on single-use bag bans this year.

Discussion: Forming Subcommittees

Members formed six subcommittees after reviewing a previously discussed list of potential subcommittee topics and focus areas. Each subcommittee will have the opportunity to work on projects and efforts relating to their topic, and collaborate with other subcommittees if needed.

The six subcommittees and their members are as follows (the chair(s) of each subcommittee are underlined):

Pollinator-Friendly Habitat + Food Systems – Jason Alvey, Michelle Shaw, David Watts, Anthony Varriano

Climate + Energy + Air Quality – Anthony Varriano, Jimmy Randolph, Marianna Hefte, Brady Steigauf, Nick Minderman, Allan Campbell, Katie Hill Brandt, Lisa Daniels, Brian Zakem (guest)

Sustainable Transportation + Land Use – Brady Steigauf, Nick Minderman, Anthony Varriano, Tom Olsen, Jason Alvey, Tim Sexton

Environmental Justice/Environment Equity + Community Engagement – Michelle Shaw, Erin Niehoff, Anthony Varriano, Cody Welchlin, Tom Olsen, Marianna Hefte, Nicole Bauknight

Zero Waste + Beautification – Cody Welchlin, Jason Alvey, Sandy Fazeli, Nicole Bauknight

Green Workforce – Brady Steigauf, Lisa Daniels, Sandy Fazeli

Members agreed that environmental justice and equity should be taken into account when deciding on a project. Subcommittees will be responsible for coming up with a framework for equity. The Community Engagement/Environmental Justice subcommittee will hold other groups accountable to this standard.

Aside from overlap between CEAC subcommittees, there will also be opportunities for collaboration with Energy Vision Advisory Committee (EVAC) and other City boards, commissions and committees.

Erin dedicated the last ten minutes of the meeting for members to meet in their subcommittees and discuss meeting logistics and potential projects for their groups.

Unfinished Business/Updates

Upper Harbor Terminal

- The concept plan for the Upper Harbor Terminal was passed with amendments on March 1st. The next step will be a coordinated plan, which will take about a year to develop. The Upper Harbor Terminal Co-Creation team meets every Monday at 5pm at UROC in North Minneapolis. The group has been pushing the City to include community input and include the co-creation team in the formation of the plan, empowered to make decisions along with developers, the City, and the Park Board, but this was not included in the concept plan. The City Council also recently created a Community Planning and Engagement Committee. This committee is intended be the conduit between the City's efforts and the community, while also assisting in such tasks as the development of the community ownership models for the commercial real estate, a public arts plan, and developing the three scenarios for study in the AUAR. The [application process](#) is open until **April 14** for those interested in serving on this committee.

100% Renewable Resolution – Roadmap for implementation

- The previous CEAC cohort wrote a letter in support of this resolution, which passed in April of last year. The City is working on developing a blueprint for achieving this goal community-wide, and City Staff will be presenting to City Council the progress and elements of the blueprint at the beginning of the second quarter. One of the elements that has been discussed is a wedge analysis tool, which will display the City's current and projected energy use, while taking into account electrification of heating, the shift towards renewables on the electric utility's grid, and the required increase in energy efficiency. Also included in the report to City Council will be a community engagement plan, which will include presenting to CEAC and other groups.

Green Fleet Strategy Update

- Kelly does not currently have an update, except to confirm that Al Thunberg has been named the new head of the department.

Energy Efficiency – new City office buildings, Energy Disclosure ordinances

- The new Public Service Building will include triple pane windows and additional recycling receptacles, as suggested by the previous CEAC. The building's energy performance was modeled against Sustainable Building (SB) 2030 guidelines, but will not be meeting that standard. The roof will have 93kW of solar, as well as a green roof section. The building will use gas heat, since electrifying would be cost prohibitive, although staff did not specify any numbers.
- All of the Energy Disclosure ordinances (truth in sale of housing (TISH), energy disclosure as part of renter agreements, and multifamily building benchmarking) were passed by City Council. There will be different stages of implementation, starting with the benchmarking ordinance, then TISH in 2020, followed by disclosure for renters.

Roof Depot/Hiawatha Campus Expansion

- [City Council voted](#) to retain all land for the Public Works project and to not sell any to the community. There will be a public use facility on the site, owned and operated by the City. [Staff directions from Council Member Cano](#) included helping the community find a location for their urban agriculture facility and creating a Hiawatha Advisory Committee to serve as an advisory group on the planning and implementation of the Hiawatha Maintenance Facility Campus Expansion with an emphasis on the job recruitment and training center. Kim Havey, the director of the City of Minneapolis Sustainability Division, will be on that committee. We hope the Hiawatha Advisory Committee will collaborate with the Southside Green Zone Council.

Announcements

- Minneapolis City Tree program: sign up for the lottery by March 13th treetrust.org/get-a-tree/mps-tree-distribution-copy/
- Transportation Action Plan: series of engagement activities and events. Provide your input and feedback on their interactive website go.minneapolismn.gov/.
- Hennepin County grants for recycling and solid waste (commercial and multifamily): www.hennepin.us/businessrecycling Applications due Feb 15, May 1, August 1, November 1)
- [Changes to materials accepted for recycling](#)
 - **No #6 plastics** (polystyrene: rigid or foam)
 - **No black plastics** (any number)
- [Green To Go exemptions end April 22, 2019](#). Under an exemption, two products could be used even though they did not meet Green To Go rules. However, after April 22, 2019, the products can no longer be used. The products are:
 - Polyethylene (PE) lined paper hot and cold cups and containers for liquids (soup, etc.), and
 - Rigid polystyrene lids. The lids are marked with a #6 inside three chasing arrows.
- MnDot recently released a plan for accelerating EV adoption in MN: [Accelerating Electric Vehicle Adoption: A Vision for Minnesota](#). Our fellow member Tim Sexton is an author! Thanks Tim!
- Climate change workshop happening on March 26, 5:30-7:30pm. "[Personal Adaptation: Accelerate Your Climate Coherent Learning Curve](#)" at Peace Coffee, 3262 Minnehaha Avenue, Minneapolis.
- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's [Above the Falls Plan](#) is under 45 day comment period.

- **Upper Harbor Terminal CPEC applications open:** The City Council created the 15-member Community Planning and Engagement Committee. This committee will be the conduit between the City's efforts and the community. It's a committee with a substantial charge to assist in reaching the community, development of the community ownership models for the commercial real estate, a public arts plan, and developing the three scenarios for study in the AUAR. The [application process](#) is open until **April 14** for those interested in serving on this committee.
- The Upper Harbor Terminal Co-Creation Team meets **Mondays at 5pm at UROC (2001 Plymouth Ave North)**
- **March 22** is World Water Day – MN350, Environmental Initiative and Sierra Club are sponsors. Events **at First Unitarian Church on Dupont from 6-9pm**
- **March 15, 12:00pm at the State Capitol** is the [Youth Climate Strike](#), part of the nationwide event.
- Read about Xcel Energy's carbon reduction efforts in their recently released [carbon report](#). In December, the utility announced goals of 100% carbon free electricity by 2050 and an 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030. One page summaries of the [overall report](#) and the [scientific analysis](#) are also available.
- **March 20, 6:00 – 7:30pm at Pearl Park Recreation Center, 414 E. Diamond Lake Rd.**, Join the Minnesota Department of Transportation and Minneapolis City Council Member Jeremy Schroeder at our [Sips and Scoops event](#) to learn how MnDOT has incorporated sustainable practices in the 35W@94: Downtown to Crosstown project and across the state.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: April 4, 2019 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the [Phillips Community Center, 2323 11th Ave S.](#)