

Community Environmental Advisory Commission

Regular Meeting

May 2, 2019 – 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Eastside Food Co-op, 2551 Central Ave NE

Members in attendance: Allan Campbell, Brady Steigauf, Cody Welchlin, Erin Niehoff, Forrest Theisen, Jason Alvey, Katie Hill Brandt, Lisa Daniels, Michelle Shaw, Nicholas Minderman, Sandy Fazeli, Thomas Olsen, and Tim Sexton.

Members unable to attend: Anthony Varriano, David Watts, Jimmy Randolph, Molly Ellis, and Marianna Hefte.

Staff: Council Member Cam Gordon, Kelly Muellman, and Kennedy Kruchoski.

Guests: Jeffrey Meek, Brian Zakem, Kass Welchlin, Gayle Bonneville, Barb Sullivan, and Becky Wardell Guertner.

Call to Order – 6:06 PM

Commission Chair Erin Niehoff called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. and Michelle Shaw read the following Land Acknowledgement 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 and shared environmental concerns that they want CEAC to address.

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted at 6:23 p.m.

Acceptance of Minutes of April 4, 2019

The minutes of the April 4, 2019 CEAC meeting were accepted at 6:24 p.m.

Discussion – 6:25 PM

1. Vote on July meeting (cancel or reschedule)

The meeting is currently scheduled for July 4th. Most members will not be able to attend. Options included cancelling the meeting or moving it to July 11th. Members voted to move the meeting to July 11th.

2. Regenerative Agriculture + Biochar resolution letter

Brady Steigauf summarized the letter, which he drafted, in support of Council Member Schroeder's Regenerative Agriculture and Biochar Resolution. The letter requests additional

integration of environmental equity, as well as strategies to engage the public-school system to educate students about regenerative agriculture and biochar, into the resolution. It also requests that the City uses downed City trees (especially those that are being taken down due to emerald ash borer) for biochar.

The group discussed how to ensure that biochar not be produced unsustainably, and incorporated this concern into the letter. The group also added a request to consider the impacts of transportation emissions associated with the production of biochar.

The group moved and voted to approve this letter at 6:43 p.m.

3. Bring Your Own Bag ordinance letter

Sandy Fazeli and Cody Welchlin discussed their draft letters to Council Member Gordon regarding the Bring Your Own Bag ordinance. Two letters were written to reflect two different paths forward. The requests are very similar between the two letters – the main difference is whether the group supports or opposes the ordinance.

CEAC voted to draft a letter in support of the ordinance, but also incorporating several issues raised in discussion. A few areas of concern included the need for education about this bringing reusable bags and the reason for the fee; eventually increasing the fee or charging varying fees for different bags; and incorporating this into a longer-term goal, like a zero-waste plan or adding the elimination of single use bags statewide to the City's legislative agenda.

This final letter will be drafted by Cody, Sandy and Erin, commented on by the rest of the Commission, and then discussed at the June meeting.

Announcements – 7:30 PM

Due to time constraints, all additional announcements will be sent via email to Kelly, and will be included in a follow up email to CEAC members and guests.

- **Tabling needs for this weekend:** Audubon Wing Ding, North Minneapolis Block Party, Cinco de Mayo. List of other events in addition to those this weekend.
- **Free Trees for May Day from Heart of the Beast:** 1,035 trees (currently tiny saplings) need homes on private property within the next few weeks. People commit at some level to picking up the tree on May Day (May 5th). People also are encouraged to carry their tree in the parade and decorate their can. Besides signing up to plant a tree on your property, additionally volunteers are needed to help facilitate this whole process. Contact Sandy with Heart of the Beast with questions: sandralspieler@gmail.com Sign Up: <https://hobt.org/trees/>
- **May 6 – Deadline for Hennepin County education grants.** Applications are being accepted until 3 p.m. on Monday, May 6 for environmental education grants to engage youth and adults in Hennepin County. Eligible organizations include registered nonprofit organizations, park districts, private and public schools and school districts. See the website for more information: www.hennepin.us/greenpartners
- **May 22: Environmental Initiative Awards celebration.** 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at Nicollet Island Pavilion (40 Power St, Minneapolis, MN 55401). Go to <https://environmental-initiative.org/events/awards/> or contact [Erin Niehoff](#) with questions.
- **Vacancy** – There is currently a vacancy on the Commission. All previous applications within the last year will be considered. The position is a mayoral appointment, and is only for a Minneapolis resident.

Unfinished Business – 7:50 PM

1. Subcommittee Updates

1. **Zero Waste + Beautification.** Chair: [Cody Welchlin](#).

Sandy asked that members consider joining this subcommittee. Kelly mentioned that the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board may be asking for their support on a single use plastic ban.

2. **Pollinator-Friendly Habitat + Food Systems.** Meets 4th Saturday @ 9:30 AM. Chair: [Jason Alvey](#)

Jason thanked the group for all contributions to the letter sent in support of the Park Board's Ecological Systems Plan.

Environmental Justice + Community Engagement. Meets 5pm prior to monthly CEAC meeting. Chair: [Michelle Shaw](#).

Michelle asked members to sign up to table upcoming events if they are able.

The ["Friends of CEAC" Facebook page](#) is now active.

3. **Climate + Energy + Air Quality.** Chairs: [Jimmy Randolph](#) and [Anthony Varriano](#).

Katie Hill Brandt updated members about issues being looked into by this subcommittee, including increasing awareness to funding of energy infrastructure improvements, and air quality in the Green Zones according to available state data. The subcommittee is deciding where to focus their efforts.

4. **Sustainable Transportation + Land Use.** Chair: [Nick Minderman](#)

Nick mentioned that this group met with the Pedestrian Advisory Committee to discuss areas where environmental issues arise in transportation infrastructure.

5. **Green Workforce.** Chair: [Brady Steigauf](#).

This group will soon be meeting with someone in workforce development at the City.

Adjournment – 8:02 PM

Next Meeting: June 6, 2019 6:00-8:00 PM

Location: Hope Community "Loft", 611 E Franklin Ave.

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact the Sustainability Division at 612-673-3014 or e-mail kelly.muellman@minneapolismn.gov. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626. Para asistencia 612-673-2700 - Rau kev pab 612-673-2800 - Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500.