

Community Environmental Advisory Commission

Regular Meeting

June 6, 2019 -- 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Hope Community, 611 E Franklin Ave, "Loft" meeting space

Board/Commission Members in attendance: Allan Campbell, Brady Steigauf, Cody Welchlin, Erin Niehoff, Katie Hill Brandt, Lisa Daniels, Marianna Hefte, Michelle Shaw, Nicholas Minderman, Thomas Olsen (Quorum: 9)

Staff in attendance: Kelly Muellman, Kennedy Kruchoski, Kim Havey, Katie Kowalczyk, Nico Cantarero

Guests in attendance: Grace Corbin, Luis

6:00 Call to Order

Commission Chair Erin Niehoff called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. and Thomas Olsen read the land acknowledgement statement.

Michelle Shaw asked that members consider the upcoming Independence Day holiday in the context of the colonialization in which it is ingrained. Also, there are upcoming events and celebrations to be aware of which are included in the announcements section

Adoption of the Agenda + Acceptance of Minutes of May 2, 2019

The agenda and last month's meeting minutes were adopted at 6:17 p.m.

Presentation

Public Works Stormwater + Transportation – Katie Kowalczyk

Katie Kowalczyk, the Green infrastructure coordinator at the City of Minneapolis, provided a summary of the City's Stormwater Program, including an overview of stormwater projects and management. Slides are available on the [CEAC's webpage](#). Projects are prioritized based on a calculation of flooding, water quality, asset management needs, and areas of racially concentrated areas of poverty.

- Flooding in Minneapolis looks different now than it has previously. Minnesota is getting warmer and wetter, extreme precipitation events are increasing, and we are losing are cold extremes. Flood mitigation strategies are currently underway in Minneapolis, including pilot studies that will result in recommended specific strategies.
- Asset Management: The City has assessed the entirety of the sewer and stormwater networks, and is using that information to set risk factors and identify areas with the highest need for upgrades.

- Water quality work at the City focuses on reducing the phosphorus content and suspended solids in the water system.

CEAC members and all City residents are invited to engage in programs such as [Adopt a Storm Drain](#), [Adopt-a-Median](#), [Adopt-a-Litter Container](#), planting events, and ways to reduce stormwater runoff on your own property to receive a [stormwater fee credit](#). There is also the [Blooming Boulevards program](#) in partnership with MetroBlooms, through which over 900 boulevards will be converted to bioswales by 2021.

Sustainability Division activities + updates – Kim Havey

Kim Havey, the Director of Sustainability at the City of Minneapolis, provided an overview of current sustainability projects. The [Minneapolis Sustainability Division](#) works on a variety of topics including climate change and clean energy, climate resilience, environmental justice, and local foods. Slides from Kim's presentation are available on [CEAC's webpage](#).

Kim mentioned actions that individuals and CEAC members can take to advance the Division's work including:

- Participate in the [Food Action Plan Workshops](#)
- Take transit, ride a bike, car share and drive an EV
- Shop at the [Local Farmers markets](#)
- Enjoy a plant based diet twice a week
- [Insulate your home](#)
- [Install roof top solar](#)
- Participate in a [community solar garden](#)
- Reach out to friends and family and tell them why Climate Change is important to you especially those who live in greater Minnesota

Recommendations for actions that CEAC could take to advance the Division's work included:

- Social media promotions to reduce plastic use with the roll out of the bring your own bag ordinance
- Draft a sustainable building policy
- Produce Climate change materials and you tube videos on recycling, organics, biking
- Coordinate a campaign to reduce energy use among downtown/neighborhood residents and businesses

Discussion

Bring Your Own Bag ordinance letter

Erin Niehoff began this discussion with the acknowledgement that members would most likely not come to a unanimous consensus on this topic, which may result in a level of discomfort, and reminded members that they can continue to push City Council and the Mayor to continue this effort, ensuring that this ordinance is only the beginning of the work towards ridding the City of single use plastic.

Members reviewed changes made to the draft of the letter since the last meeting, and discussed additional changes. The discussion mainly revolved around ensuring that lower income communities are not disproportionately burdened by this additional fee, especially those that don't quite qualify for SNAP benefits and are thus not exempted from the fee. The other primary concern from members was that the fee goes to the business instead of back to the community. Council Member Gordon had previously clarified that the City would be unable to collect the fee in the form of a tax, and that the City has no power to direct the businesses on how to use the fee once it is collected.

After edits were made, the group voted on sending the letter to City Council. Eight members voted in favor and 2 members opposed the letter, and the letter passed. You can find a copy of the letter on [CEAC's webpage](#).

Announcements

1. Minneapolis Green Teams meeting, June 18, 6:30 p.m. at Christ English Lutheran Church, 3210 Oliver Ave N.
2. [Planning for resilient cities](#) meeting – free workshop on Thursday, June 20 at 2661 Civic Center Drive, Roseville, MN.
3. Monday, June 17, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. MPCA meeting at UROC on [phase 2 of Volkswagen settlement](#) at UROC, 2001 Plymouth Ave N, Minneapolis –
4. MPCA Environmental Justice Student Worker Position – due June 19. For all the details, including how to apply, visit the [State of Minnesota's career website](#) and search for Job ID 33110 or Environmental Justice Student Worker
5. MnDOT's transportation [pathways](#) project is currently in an engagement process, and a [survey](#) to collect feedback about emissions reductions in MN is live on their webpage.
6. The next [Food Action Plan](#) community meeting is taking place on July 24 at East Side Neighborhood Services, 1700 2nd Street NE, Minneapolis.
7. Learn about upcoming community conversations events on the [Mde Maka Ska Facebook page](#).
8. Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe [Grand Celebration Powwow](#) – June 14-16, Grand Casino Hinckley

Unfinished Business

Members were asked to consider volunteering to table at upcoming events, including Somali Independence Day, Juneteenth, and Franklin Open Streets. Members who expressed interest in assisting: Cody Welchlin, Marianna Hefte, Katie Hill Brandt, Allan Campbell.

8:00 Adjournment

Next Meeting: July 11, 2019

Location: North Market, 4414 Humboldt Ave N, Minneapolis, MN 55412

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

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