



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY & ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING

December 10, 2024

7:00 PM

Fridley Civic Campus, 7071 University Ave N.E.

MINUTES

Call to Order

Chair Klemz called the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission to order at 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Aaron Klemz

Sam Stoxen

Heidi Ferris

Mark Hansen

Absent: Justin Foell

Avonna Starck

Others Present: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Cara Clagget, PYP Coordinator- Hayes Elementary

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Ferris to move Item "Update on Partnership between Growing Green Hearts and Fridley Public Schools" from Other Items to New Business Item #1. Seconded by Commissioner Hansen. The motion carried unanimously. Motion by Commissioner Stoxen to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Commissioner Ferris. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of November 12, 2024 Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Hasen to approve the November 12, 2024 meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Stoxen. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

2. Update on Partnership between Growing Green Hearts and Fridley Public Schools

Cara Clagget of Hayes Elementary School presented on the environmental work being conducted by students of Hayes Elementary and how it integrated into the schools IB curriculum.

3. Renewable Energy Ordinance Language

Ms. Workin shared proposed ordinance language related to renewable energy to be incorporated as part of the City's recodification project. The Commissioners discussed the need to incorporate a drainage plan into the conditions for a conditional use permit for a ground mounted solar array. The Commissioners discussed recommending that native plants be established underneath ground mounted solar arrays and to include that information on the website. It was also recommended that trees being removed during the installation of the ground mounted arrays be replaced with opportunities for cash in lieu if there is not available planting space.

Motion by Commissioner Ferris to approve the proposed Renewable Energy Ordinance Language with the proposed additions of a requirement for a drainage plan and tree replacement plan. Seconded by Commissioner Stoxen. The Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

4. Energy Action Plan updates

Ms. Workin shared that the City submitted grant applications for solar on the Commons Park and Public Works building. She also shared that the City had submitted the Energy Efficient Buildings program application for Commons Park and was reviewing the report.

5. Grant Updates

Ms. Workin shared that no grants had been awarded or denied in the past month.

6. Outreach and Event updates

Ms. Workin shared that the Environmental Fun Fair had been scheduled for May 17.

Other Items

7. Informal Status Reports

Ms. Workin shared that the City was working with Bauer Brothers to salvage playground equipment in its park projects.

Ms. Workin shared that Minnesota Commercial Rail received a \$15.8 million grant to be used toward replacing its existing trains, including the one in Fridley, with a new train meeting Tier 4 standards.

Ms. Workin shared that the City will be accepting applications for the vacancy on the EQEC will extend a few more days.

Ms. Workin shared that MnDOT will be hosting a virtual meeting on TH47 on December 13 on the TH47 project.

Mr. Hansen shared that a working group of the American Public Works Association- MN was considered strategies to reduce public carbon.

Commissioner Klemz shared that he would be facilitating a webinar on climate resilience and climate hope and would share the link to interested members.

Commissioner Ferris shared that she was working with an environmental educators' group on multiple outreach initiatives.

Commissioner Klemz shared that the state would be participating in Winter Salt Week. Ms. Workin shared that she would suggest the idea of doing a proclamation for the Fridley City Council.

Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Ferris to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Hansen. The Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Workin

Environmental Planner