



Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Meeting

April 11, 2023

7:00 PM

Fridley Civic Campus, 7071 University Ave N.E.

Agenda

Call to Order

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- [1.](#) Approve the Minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission meeting of March 14, 2023.

New Business

- [2.](#) Chair Election
- [3.](#) GreenStep Cities 2022 Metric Review

Old Business

- [4.](#) Energy Action Plan Updates
- [5.](#) Grant Updates
- [6.](#) Outreach and Events Updates

Other Items

- [7.](#) Digital Collaboration Brainstorming
- [8.](#) Informal Status Reports

Adjournment

Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in any City of Fridley services, programs, or activities. Hearing impaired persons who need an interpreter or other persons who require auxiliary aids should contact the City at (763) 571-3450.



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY & ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING

March 14, 2023

7:00 PM

Fridley Civic Campus, 7071 University Ave N.E.

MINUTES

Call to Order

Chair Amy Dritz called the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission to order at 7:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Amy Dritz
Sam Stoxen
Nick Olberding
Justin Foell
Aaron Klemz

Absent: Heidi Ferris, Mark Hansen

Others Present: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Klemz to approve the meeting agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Olberding. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of February 7, 2023 Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Klemz to approve the February 7, 2023 meeting minutes. seconded by Commissioner Stoxen. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

2. Recodification of Chapter 105 Landscape Maintenance to Chapter 304 Landscape Maintenance

Motion by Commissioner Klemz to approve this item with the addition of a definition for "naturalized" to ensure that plants falling within that definition provide the same ecological function as native plants. Seconded by Commissioner Stoxen. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Recodification of Chapter 104 Tree Maintenance to Chapter 319 Tree Maintenance

Commissioner Foell noted that the phrase "City Clerk" was maintained in the chapter. Motion by Commissioner Klemz to approve this item. Seconded by Commissioner Foell. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Ethylene Oxide from Commercial Sterilizers

Ms. Workin provided background on ethylene oxide emissions from commercial sterilizers.

Old Business

5. Grant Updates

Ms. Workin shared that the City received grant funding for the street sweepings screener, Apex Pond, and the 61st Avenue Parklet.

6. Event and Outreach updates

Ms. Workin shared that the HRA open house was very successful. She also said that the City was planning to offer native plants as part of the 2023 Tree Sale.

7. Energy Action Plan updates

Ms. Workin shared that the City presented the SolSmart bronze award to the City Council on February 27. She also said that the WindUp Challenge had started March 1, and while she hadn't seen a lot of sign ups, people may be enrolling without completing the City's form. A citywide mailer would be going out in the next couple of weeks which should also increase participation. Ms. Workin shared that the City was awarded most rebates received per capita for 2022 of the 26 cities that partner with Xcel Energy.

Other Items

8. Informal Status Reports

Ms. Workin reminded the Commissioners of the appreciation dinner on April 17. Commissioner Foell shared that a local kayaking group was planning a clean up event on Rice Creek and would share more information as available. Commissioner Foell also asked for more information to be provided. Commissioner Foell shared that he has been seeing a bill credit from Xcel Energy for participation in renewable energy programs. Commissioner Klemz said that he has been looking into models for city ordinances related to building deconstruction. He shared that Milwaukee and Portland have ordinances

Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Stoxen to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Olberding. The Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: April 11, 2023

Meeting Type: Environmental Quality and Energy Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

Approve the Minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission meeting of March 14, 2023.

Background

Approve the Minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission meeting of March 14, 2023.

Recommendation

Approve the Minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission meeting of March 14, 2023.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Minutes- March 14, 2023

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: April 11, 2023

Meeting Type: Environmental Quality and Energy Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

Chair Election

Background

Commissioner Amy Dritz submitted a notice of resignation as Chair of the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission. Staff would like to extend their thanks to Commissioner Dritz for their time and leadership while serving in the role. A new chair needs to be elected.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the EQEC elect a new chair.

Attachments and Other Resources

- None

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AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: April 11, 2023

Meeting Type: Environmental Quality and Energy Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

GreenStep Cities 2022 Metric Review

Background

The GreenStep Cities program is a voluntary challenge program organized by the MPCA and a coalition of other groups to recognize Cities for their sustainability efforts as well as to provide technical assistance on best practices. Fridley joined the program in 2014 and was awarded Step 4 in 2022. To maintain Step 4 status, the City must submit an annual report on April 4 each year detailing the previous year's achievements. Staff will review the City's 2022 submittal.

Recommendation

For information purposes only

Attachments and Other Resources

- None

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AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: April 11, 2023

Meeting Type: Environmental Quality and Energy Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

Energy Action Plan Updates

Background

At the November 9, 2021 meeting, the EQEC recommended adoption of Phase 2 of the Energy Action Plan. The following activities were completed this past month:

- Receive CEE award for most rebates per capita in Intercity Challenge
- Continue WindUp Challenge
- Continue loaning Energy Efficiency Kits

The following activities are projected in the next month:

- May newsletter on solar
- Tabling at Environmental Fun Fair
- Continue WindUp Challenge
- Continue loaning Energy Efficiency Kits

Recommendation

None

Attachments and Other Resources

None

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Title

Grant Updates

Background

The purpose of this item is to provide Commissioners updates on sustainability grants held by the City.

Grants in the Pre-Application Stage

- Anoka County grant to include organics recycling at Moore Lake Park building

Grants Under Review

Active Grants

- Recycling grant (ongoing)
- Met Council Regional Solicitation Grant for 44th Avenue Bridge w/ Anoka County
- BWSR/RCWD grant for Moore Lake IESF project
- RCWD grant for road diet on University Ave Service Rd
- LRIP grant for 53rd Avenue Trail Project
- RS grant for 7th St Trail Project (missing section in front of Community Center, will resume following school release)
- University Avenue Lighting Project
- Met Council Climate Mitigation grant for feasibility study of 73rd Ave
- BWSR HELP grant for native plant restoration on Commons Park hillside
- Met Council Water Efficiency Grant pt 3
- MDH Well Sealing Grant pt 3
- DNR grant for mitigating impacts of EAB
- MnDOT Active Transportation Pilot Grant
- RCWD grant for sumps in Farr Lake neighborhood
- MnDOT Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant for University Avenue
- CCWD Water Quality Grant for Sweepings Screener
- CCWD Water Quality Grant for Apex Pond
- DNR Preparing for Emerald Ash Borer Grant Pt. 3

Grants Closed (1/1/2021+)

Vision Statement

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- SHIP grant for wayfinding kiosk
- MDH Well Sealing Grant pt 2
- SHIP grant for bike fleet (SNC/Recreation)
- CCWD grant for Craig Park improvements
- Lawns to Legumes grant for Craig Park Bee Lawn
- RCWD grant for 6 raingardens in Rice Creek Terrace neighborhood
- Lawns to Legumes Demonstration Neighborhood Grant (ACD grant in partnership with Coon Rapids, and Lino Lakes)
- SHIP grant for Civic Campus orchard
- CCWD grant for hydrodynamic separator in 2022 Street Project Area
- Met Council Water Efficiency Grant pt 2

Recommendation

- None

Attachments and Other Resources

- None

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Outreach and Events Updates

Background

Outreach at community events is an important strategy to build environmental awareness and increase engagement. Events that have been completed since the last meeting as well as upcoming outreach events are listed below.

Completed events (3/14-4/10)

- None

Confirmed events and topics

- Environmental Fun Fair (4/22)
- Rice Creek TH Pick Up Event (5/25)
- Tree and Native Plant Sale (9/9 Pick Up)
- Mississippi River Concert 8/8

Potential Upcoming Events

- Kids Book Swap
- Pollinator Planting at Commons Park
- Pollinator Planting at Moore Lake
- 5 year Anniversary Celebration for Civic Campus
- 7th Avenue trail ribbon cutting
- Moore Lake Park ribbon cutting

Recommendation

- None

Attachments and Other Resources

- None

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Digital Collaboration Brainstorming

Background

This item is intended as a brainstorming space to discuss opportunities for digital collaboration and community engagement

Recommendation

For information purposes only

Attachments and Other Resources

- None

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Informal Status Reports

Background

Staff and Commissioners will share informal status reports on programs happening in the City.

Recommendation

None

Attachments and Other Resources

None

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