



Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Meeting

December 12, 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 November 14, 2023

New Business

- [2.](#) Pilot Boulevard Tree Planting Program

Old Business

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

Other Items

- [6.](#) 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.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: December 12, 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 November 14, 2023

Background

Approve the minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission meeting of November 14, 2023.

Recommendation

Approve the minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission meeting of November 14, 2023.

Attachments and Other Resources

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

Vision Statement

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



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY & ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING

November 14, 2023

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 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Aaron Klemz
Mark Hansen
Heidi Ferris
Nick Olberding
Justin Foell
Sam Stoxen

Absent: Amy Dritz

Others Present: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Hansen to approve the meeting agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Stoxen. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of October 10, 2023 Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Hansen to approve the October 10, 2023 meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Ferris. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

2. Letters of Support for Trail Projects

Ms. Workin reviewed the Mississippi Street Reconstruction and Safe Routes to School projects that were discussed at the October 10, 2023 meeting and shared draft letters of support. Commissioner Hansen stated the importance of addressing the drainage issues under the overpass if the project moves forward. Two revisions to the letter were recommended:

- 1) Commissioner Ferris recommended adding that locations of significant community value including the library, schools, and history center were located along the corridor and

- 2) 2) Commissioner Foell recommended adding that Mississippi Street functions as Fridley's Main Street.

Motion by Commissioner Stoxen to sign letters of support for grant funding for the Mississippi Street Reconstruction projects and the Safe Routes to School projects with the amendments suggested. Second by Commissioner Foell. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Emerald Ash Borer Treatment Program

Ms. Workin requested feedback from the Commissioners on the City's Emerald Ash Borer Treatment program as the City prepares to release a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Emerald Ash Borer Treatment services. Commissioners recommended leveraging the City's large number of trees scheduled for treatment to obtain lower pricing for residents within the RFP. Commissioners also discussed the importance of replacement of ash trees that are removed. Ms. Workin shared that while the City has a tree sale to incentivize tree replacement, more smaller trees are sold than larger trees that replicate the ecological function of ash. It was recommended that the City modify the pricing in the tree sale to make heritage trees more desirable, consider a tree giveaway, and amplify messaging on the benefits of large trees.

Old Business

4. Energy Action Plan updates

Ms. Workin shared that the City distributed 100 light bulbs at the Coats from Cops event.

5. Outreach and Event updates

Ms. Workin shared that there was an open house for neighbors near the proposed Safe Routes to School Project.

6. Grant Updates

Ms. Workin shared that the City received the SS4A grant for a safety action plan as well as grants from the DNR to support forestry work.

Other Items

7. Informal Status Reports

Commissioners provided positive feedback on the 53rd Avenue roundabout.

Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Hansen to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Stoxen. The Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: December 12, 2023 **Meeting Type:** Environmental Quality and Energy Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

Pilot Boulevard Tree Planting Program

Background

The City of Fridley is considering a pilot boulevard tree planting program to increase Fridley's urban forest. The need for this program is based on the benefits provided by trees alongside the significant loss of ash trees due to emerald ash borer.

Recommendation

Staff recommend that commissioners provide feedback on how the boulevard tree planting program should be structured.

Attachments and Other Resources

- FridleyMN.gov/EmeraldAsh

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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:

- Solar meeting for Moore Lake Park Community Building

The following activities are projected:

- Door knocking Fridley Terrace (Spring 2024)

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 (11/15-12/12)

- None

Confirmed events and topics

- Winterfest 1/20/2024
- HRA Open House 3/27/2024

Potential Upcoming Events

- HRA Open House, February
- Baby gear swap, Summer
- Garden gear swap, May

Recommendation

None

Attachments and Other Resources

- None

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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

- Regional Solicitation Grant- Mississippi St Trail
- Regional Solicitation Grant- Safe Routes to School
- 2024 Street Project Rain Gardens
- MWMO Grants and RCWD Grants for hydrodynamic separators in 2024 Street Project

Grants Under Review

- CERTS Seed grant for solar feasibility analysis
- CERTS Seed grant to promote home energy squad visits
- LRIP Mississippi ST

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
- University Avenue Lighting Project
- Met Council Water Efficiency Grant pt 3
- MDH Well Sealing Grant pt 3
- RCWD grant for sumps in Farr Lake neighborhood
- CCWD Water Quality Grant for Apex Pond
- MnDOT Active Transportation grant for University Avenue Trails
- DNR Preparing for Emerald Ash Borer Grant Pt. 3
- Dog Waste Stations in Moore Lake Park
- CDBG Grant for 61st Avenue Parcel
- Sylvan Hills Park Feasibility Study
- DNR ReLeaf Grant
- Safe Streets and Roads for All Planning Grant to create a Safety Action Plan

Vision Statement

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- DNR Shade Tree Grant

Grants Closed (1/1/2021+)

- 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
- DNR Preparing for Emerald Ash Borer Grant pt. 2
- RS grant for 7th St Trail Project
- MnDOT Active Transportation Pilot Grant
- BWSR HELP grant for native plant restoration on Commons Park hillside
- MnDOT Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant for University Avenue
- CCWD Water Quality Grant for Sweepings Screener
- Anoka County grant to include organics recycling at Moore Lake Park building
- Met Council Climate Mitigation grant for feasibility study of 73rd Ave
- LRIP grant for 53rd Avenue Trail Project
- RCWD grant for road diet on University Ave Service Rd

Recommendation

- None

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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