



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY & ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING

November 12, 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 7:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Aaron Klemz

Sam Stoxen

Amy Dritz

Mark Hansen

Avonna Starck

Justin Foell

Absent: Heidi Ferris

Others Present: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Emily Mashuga, Ampact Intern

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of October 8, 2024 Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Dritz to approve the October 8, 2024 meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Hansen. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

2. Solar on City-Owned Buildings Update

Ms. Workin shared proposed plans to add solar to City facilities.

Motion by Commissioner Foell to recommend accepting a Solar on Public Buildings grant from the Minnesota Department of Commerce for \$72,000 to construct a solar array at the Moore Lake Park Community Building. Seconded by Commissioner Hansen. The Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Dritz to submit an application to the Minnesota Department of Commerce's Solar on Public Buildings grant program for \$72,000 each to construct a solar array at the Public Works and Commons Park building. Seconded by Commissioner Foell. The Motion carried unanimously.

3. Community Resilience Grant Application

Ms. Workin shared plans to apply for a community resilience grant from the MPCA.

Old Business

4. Energy Action Plan updates

Ms. Workin shared that CEE did another round of tabling at Fridley Terrace and distributed energy kits to 100 households. She also shared that there was information in the packet from Xcel Energy on city participation in different programs as well as citywide energy usage. There was a 137% increase in participants in energy efficiency programs as well as a 33% increase in renewable energy program participations from 2022 to 2023. 2023 was also a strong year for small business lighting projects and HVAC efficiency projects. There's also been 28 solar arrays participating in SolarRewards added since 2020. It was requested to see energy use by premise data. Commissioner Klemz also suggested that increased electrical use may be influenced by fuel switching from natural gas which decreases the City's overall greenhouse gas emissions.

5. Grant Updates

Ms. Workin shared that the City was working with Rice Creek Watershed District to apply for a planning grant to update the stormwater retrofit analysis for Moore Lake.

6. Outreach and Event updates

Ms. Workin shared that the baby gear swap at the ECFE Fall Festival was successful.

Other Items

7. Informal Status Reports

Commissioner Dritz shared that this was her last meeting as she was moving out of Fridley. The Commissioners and staff thanked Amy for her time on the EQEC. Ms. Workin shared that the City will be adopting a requirement of a two-foot freeboard above the regulatory floodplain elevation as recommended by the EQEC. Ms. Workin also shared that MnDOT would be hosting an update on the PEL on December 3 at Fridley City Hall from 5-7 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Dritz to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Stoxen. The Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Workin

Environmental Planner