



Environmental Quality and Energy Commission

January 14, 2025

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 December 10, 2024

New Business

2. Pet Waste Program (Presentation by Coon Creek Watershed District)
3. Proclamation for Winter Salt Week

Old Business

4. Energy Action Plan Updates
5. Grant Updates
6. Outreach and Events Updates

Other Items

7. Creation of Sustainability-Focused Recognition Program
8. Informal Status Reports

Adjournment

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- Si necesita ayuda de interpretación o traducción gratis, comuníquese con el personal de la ciudad.
- Yog tias koj xav tau kev pab txhais lus los sis txhais ntaub ntawv dawb, ces thov tiv tauj rau Lub Nroog cov neeg ua hauj lwm.
- Haddii aad u baahan tahay tarjumaad bilaash ah ama kaalmo tarjumaad, fadlan la xiriir shaqaalaha Magaalada.

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AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: January 14, 2025

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 December 10, 2024

Background

Approve the minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission meeting of December 10, 2024

Recommendation

Approve the minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission meeting of December 10, 2024

Attachments and Other Resources

- Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Minutes- December 10, 2024

Vision Statement

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



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 is integrated into the school's 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, but not require it by ordinance, and suggested that information on beneficial habitat under arrays be included on the City's 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



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: January 14, 2025

Meeting Type: Environmental Quality and Energy Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

Pet Waste Program

Background

Uncollected pet waste is a potential pollutant of our city's waterways. When stormwater runoff comes into contact with pet waste, harmful bacteria and phosphorus can leach into the water and cause negative health impacts for humans and other animals. County Ditch 17 (Springbrook Creek) is listed by the MPCA as impaired for aquatic life due to phosphorus contamination and aquatic recreation due to bacterial contamination. To help address these impairments, Coon Creek Watershed District (CCWD) installed three pet waste collection stations in the Springbrook Creek subwatershed in Fridley to encourage dog walkers to pick up and properly dispose of their pet waste. CCWD has successfully implemented this program in three other subwatersheds, collecting over 55,000 pounds of pet waste since 2021. Staff from Coon Creek Watershed District will be presenting on the goals and results of this program.

Recommendation

For informational purposes only

Attachments and Other Resources

- None

Vision Statement

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AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: January 14, 2025

Meeting Type: Environmental Quality and Energy Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

Proclamation for Winter Salt Week

Background

There is growing awareness of the negative impacts from chloride (salt) pollution on our area's waterbodies. Excess salt can alter the taste of drinking water, increase the cost of drinking water treatment, and harm aquatic ecosystems. Once surface or groundwater is contaminated with chlorides, there is no cost-effective treatment method. In 2024, Springbrook Creek was newly listed as impaired for aquatic life by the MPCA due to excess chlorides.

While chlorides are necessary to maintain safe driving and walking conditions throughout the winter, it is estimated that current chloride use can be reduced by 30-50% through the implementation of best practices without compromising safety. In 2019, the City began upgrading its salt trucks with brine systems and automatic vehicle locating technology to reduce its chloride use and requires all and has since seen significant reductions in the quantity of deicer use and the associated cost. The City also requires all Public Works staff who apply chlorides to attend training through the MPCA's Smart Salting program. Additionally, the City updated Chapter 504 Winter Maintenance during the recodification process to include language on bulk deicer storage and accumulated deicer removal.

One of the biggest drivers of oversalting is public perception that increased salt leads to greater safety, which is only true up to a certain point and certain scenarios. Growing initiatives including *Low Salt, No Salt Minnesota* aim to highlight chloride pollution and share strategies to safely reduce chloride use. Communities throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin as well as the State of Minnesota are designating the week of January 27th as Winter Salt Week to provide united messaging around chloride pollution. During Winter Salt Week, the City will share information on salt pollution through its outreach channels to build on previous education initiatives including annual newsletter articles, displaying the MPCA's *Smart Salting Exhibit* at Springbrook Nature Center, and hosting Smart Salting Trainings for contractors. Additionally, Commission and Councilmembers are encouraged to attend webinars throughout Winter Salt Week about salt pollution and mitigation as well as the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's virtual Smart Salting: Community Leaders Workshop on January 31 from 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. More information and registration can be found at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/smart-salting-training>.

Vision Statement

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Recommendation

Staff recommend that the commission approve the draft proclamation language designating January 27-31 as Winter Salt Week

Attachments and Other Resources

- Draft Proclamation Language

Vision Statement

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PROCLAMATION: WINTER SALT WEEK**JANUARY 27-31, 2025**

WHEREAS, the City of Fridley relies on deicing salt as part of its winter maintenance program to maintain safe and accessible roadways; and

WHEREAS, chloride contamination from deicing salt has been found in lakes, streams, and groundwater in Fridley's watersheds and across the state; and

WHEREAS, reducing overuse of deicing salt reduces damage to infrastructure and property, protects freshwater resources, and reduces harm to aquatic plants and animals; and

WHEREAS, it is crucial to raise awareness among residents, businesses, and local government agencies about the responsible use of deicing salt to protect both public safety and the long-term health of our freshwater resources; and

WHEREAS, Winter Salt Week provides an opportunity to educate our community about the responsible use of deicing salt, including environmental considerations and effective application methods; and

WHEREAS, the City encourages all residents, businesses, and city departments to take part in activities and initiatives that promote the responsible use of deicing salt and encourage the adoption of winter maintenance strategies which maintain safety while reducing environmental harm; and

WHEREAS, the City is committed to promoting a sustainable approach to winter maintenance for the benefit of present and future generations;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, that I, David Ostwald, Mayor for the City of Fridley do hereby proclaim January 27-31, 2025 as **"Winter Salt Week"** in the City of Fridley

In witness whereof, I have set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Fridley to be affixed this 27th Day of January, 2025.

David Ostwald, Mayor



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: January 14, 2025

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 since the previous EQEC Meeting:

- ICF to begin performing HES visits
- Recommendations from Energy Efficient Buildings report incorporated into Commons Park
- Solar on Public Buildings for Moore Lake grant executed
- Local Climate Action grant for EV Charger at Moore Lake submitted
- Climate Resilience grant including solar-powered benches at Commons Park submitted

The following activities are projected to occur:

- Electric Landscaping Equipment campaign (note Xcel now offering rebates on electric landscaping equipment)
- Homeowner Open House (Tabling by HES, Inflation Reduction Act Ambassadors, Light Bulb Giveaway)

Recommendation

None

Attachments and Other Resources

- None

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AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: January 14, 2025

Meeting Type: Environmental Quality and Energy Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

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

- None

Grants Under Review

- Solar for Public Buildings Grant for Commons Park
- Solar for Public Buildings Grant for Public Works
- Wood Waste Utilization Grant for Custom Furniture Piece at Commons Park
- MPCA- Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Grants for Moore Lake Stormwater Retrofit Analysis Update in partnership with RCWD
- MPCA Climate Resilience Implementation Grant for Commons Park
- Local Climate Action Grant for an EV Charger at Moore Lake Park

Active Grants

- Recycling grant (ongoing)
- Met Council Regional Solicitation Grant for 44th Avenue Bridge w/ Anoka County
- University Avenue Lighting Project
- MnDOT Active Transportation grant for University Avenue Trails
- DNR Preparing for Emerald Ash Borer Grant Pt. 3
- DNR ReLeaf Grant
- Safe Streets and Roads for All Planning Grant to create a Safety Action Plan
- DNR Shade Tree Grant
- MPCA Resiliency Grant for Electric Lawn Mower
- CCWD grant for improved street sweeping equipment
- Sylvan Hills Park stormwater system

Vision Statement

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- 2024 Street Project Rain Gardens
- Met Council Water Efficiency Grant pt 4
- MPCA Electric Landscaping Equipment Campaign
- Solar for Public Buildings Grant for Moore Lake
- Regional Solicitation Grant- Safe Routes to School
- BWSR Pollinator Pathways Grant with ACD

Grants Closed (1/1/2025+)

- BWSR/RCWD grant for Moore Lake IESF project

Recommendation

None

Attachments and Other Resources

- None

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AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: January 15, 2025

Meeting Type: Environmental Quality and Energy Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

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 (12/10-1/14)

- Presentation on MS4 to North Park Elementary School 4th Graders

Confirmed events and topics

- Winterfest (1/25)
- HRA Open House (3/19)
- Environmental Fun Fair (5/17)

Potential Upcoming Events

- Seed Swap

Recommendation

- None

Attachments and Other Resources

- None

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AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: January 14, 2024

Meeting Type: Environmental Quality and Energy Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

Creation of Sustainability-Focused Recognition Program

Background

Recognition programs can be a positive way to highlight successful programs, provide case studies, and build community relationships. Some communities have adopted sustainability award programs:

<https://www.edenprairie.org/community/sustainable-eden-prairie/sustainable-eden-prairie-award>

<https://www.southstpaul.org/919/Sustainability-Recognition-Program>

Recommendation

For consideration in advance of discussion at the February meeting.

Attachments and Other Resources

- None

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Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

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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