



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY & ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING

August 15, 2022

7:00 PM

Banfill Room Fridley Civic Campus

MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was moved to the Banfill Room from the Fireside Room due to technology in the Fireside Room being inoperable. The lobby signboard was updated with this information prior to the meeting.

CHAIR DRITZ called the commission to order at 7:02 PM

Present

Amy Dritz
Sam Stoxen
Nick Olberding
Mark Hansen
Justin Foell
Aaron Klemz
James Kosluchar, Public Works Director
Karen Blaska, Park Planner with Anoka County Parks

Approval of Agenda

MOTION by Commissioner Olberding to APPROVE the August 15, 2022, meeting agenda. SECONDED by Commissioner Foell. The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOTION by Commissioner Olberding to APPROVE the July 12, 2022, meeting minutes. SECONDED by Commissioner Klemz. The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

New Business

1. Rice Creek West Regional Trail Planning

Karen Blaska, Anoka County Parks, provided an update on the Rice Creek West Regional Trail Planning Initiative, providing history and background and an update on the process and timeline. A public

engagement event, "Conocer Los Parques" is to be held on Sunday, August 28, and engagement surveys will remain open until the end of this month.

The Commissioners noted that the regional trail was a significant asset and indicated specific enhancements that could be made to the regional trail, including wayfinding, accessibility, highway crossing, connectivity, seasonal maintenance, and general maintenance improvements. There was also discussion about the navigability of Rice Creek, and suggestions to provide improved regional trail connections to both Rice Creek and the Mississippi River.

2. Chapter 514 Winter Maintenance Recodification

As a result of updated permit conditions of the City's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Permit from the MPCA, the City must update its code to require proper storage of bulk salt. Mr. Kosluchar shared proposed updates to the City Code Chapter 514 which incorporate these required changes as well as additional updates to provide protection of vulnerable waterbodies from chloride pollution. The commission indicated their support for the code rewrite and for additional means of enforcement and discussed related chloride reduction initiatives.

MOTION by Commissioner Klemz to recommend the proposed updates to City Code Chapter 514 for adoption by the City Council. SECONDED by Commissioner Foell. The Motion PASSED unanimously.

3. Approve the 2023 EQEC Meeting Dates

Commissioners reviewed the proposed 2023 meeting dates included in the packet.

MOTION by Commissioner Olberding to adopt the proposed 2023 meeting dates as included in the packet. SECONDED by Commissioner Foell. The Motion PASSED unanimously.

Old Business

4. Energy Action Plan Updates

Commissioners reviewed updates regarding the Energy Action Plan included in the packet.

5. Grant Updates

No new environmental grants were applied or received for during the previous month.

2022 Outreach and Events

Commissioners reviewed updates regarding 2022 Outreach and Events included in the packet.

Other Items

6. Informal Status Reports

Mr. Kosluchar shared that the City had received the National Exceptional Performance Award in Sustainability from the American Public Works Association. This award would not have been possible without Rachel Workin's efforts, and Mr. Kosluchar elaborated that the Commission's vision and contributions provide support to staff to pursue programs and activities that were the basis of the award.

Adjournment

MOTION by Commissioner Foell to adjourn the meeting SECONDED by Commissioner Klemz. The MOTION PASSED unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.