



Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Meeting

October 10, 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 September 12, 2023

New Business

- [2.](#) Safe Routes to School Implementation Update

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) 572-3450.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: October 10, 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 September 12, 2023

Background

Approve the minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission meeting of September 12, 2023.

Recommendation

Approve the minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission meeting of September 12, 2023.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Minutes- September 12, 2023

Vision Statement

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



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY & ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING

September 12, 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 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Nick Olberding

Aaron Klemz

Sam Stoxen

Mark Hansen

Justin Foell

Heidi Ferris

Absent: Amy Dritz

Others Present: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of July 11, 2023 Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Olberding to approve the July 11, 2023 meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Hansen. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

2. Public Arts Plan Feedback

Ms. Workin shared that the City was collecting feedback to create a Public Art Plan for the City of Fridley. Commissioners added suggested art to the map and adopted a statement in support of environmentally-themed public art.

Motion by Commissioner Ferris to recommend the statement for approval. Seconded by Commissioner Olberding. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Future Grant Applications

Ms. Workin requested commissioner feedback on the City's DNR ReLeaf Grant and CERTS Seed Grant Applications. Ms. Ferris recommended including a video about HES visit to outreach materials.

4. 2024 Meeting Dates

Motion by Commissioner Hansen to approve the 2024 meeting dates. Seconded by Commissioner Stoxen. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

5. Energy Action Plan updates

Ms. Workin shared the City hosted an EV Showcase and was preparing to table at the Senior Fair.

6. Outreach and Event updates

Ms. Workin shared that there will be a pollinator planting at Commons Park on 9/23.

7. Grant Updates

Ms. Workin shared that the City had completed the third round of its EAB Management grant and was evaluating rain garden locations for the 2024 street project.

Other Items

8. Informal Status Reports

Ms. Workin shared that the City was looking for feedback on its website. She also said that Northstar would be expanding service in Fridley.

Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Foell to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Hansen. The Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.



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Safe Routes to School Implementation Update

Background

Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) is a nationwide program to promote walking and biking to school through the 6e's of evaluation, education, encouragement, equity, and engagement. The City and Fridley Public Schools worked with a MnDOT-hired consultant to create SRTS plans for Hayes Elementary, Stevenson Elementary, and Fridley Middle School, which were approved in 2017. Additionally, a number of recommendations within the Hayes Elementary Plan overlap with Anoka County's [Mississippi St Roadway Modification Study](#) which was approved in 2020. This study expanded the recommendation to convert Mississippi Street from four to three lanes within the SRTS study area to encompass the entirety of the roadway between East River Road Central Avenue (the roadway is two lanes east of Central Avenue). Additionally, the Anoka County study proposed adding roundabouts at 7th Street, Monroe Street, and Central Avenue to improve traffic flow. Anoka County received funding through the federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) to construct roundabouts at Central Avenue and Monroe Street; however, their HSIP application for the roadway conversion was not successful. The County and City have contracted with Bolton and Menk to prepare grant applications under the Regional Solicitation- Roadway Modernization program and Local Roads Improvement Program to complete the four to three lane conversion, add a trail, and add the Monroe Street roundabout. Additionally, the City is completing a Regional Solicitation- Safe Routes to Schools grant application to add Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons at the roundabouts, connect the 7th Street trail to Mississippi Street, add a trail connection along 61st Avenue, and improve a crosswalk at the stadium grandstand on 61st Avenue. A list of the originally recommended projects and current status is attached.

Recommendation

Staff recommend that commissioners review the proposed projects and provide comments. Staff are preparing a letter of support to bring to the November meeting

Attachments and Other Resources

- SRTS Implementation Progress

Vision Statement

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Attachment A: SRTS Plan Status

Stevenson			
	Location	Issue	Status
A	East River Rd, westside of street, north of 61st Way	Gaps in sidewalk network	Not complete, coordination needed with Anoka County
B	East River Rd at 61st Way	Pedestrian median at 61st	Not complete, coordination needed with Anoka County
C	Driveway at school	Large driveway apron	Not complete, coordination needed with Anoka County
D	Pedestrian path extending from the north west side of campus to 62nd Way	Formalize path with lighting and signage	Not complete
E	Chase Island Rd at Anna Avenue	Trail access obscured by cars and brush	Brush periodically trimmed
Fridley Middle School			
A	61st Avenue from University Avenue to Moore Lake Drive	No bicycle facilities	To be included in SRTS application
B	61st Avenue from 7th St to Carol Dr	High vehicle speeds	Complete, speed feedback signs and traffic calming installed
C	61st and Moore Lake Drive	Long crossing distance	Complete, pedestrian median installed
D	61st midblock at stadium grandstand	No convenient walking route between middle and high school	To be included in SRTS application
G	61st and University	Unsafe crossing	Planned for installation by MnDOT
H	W Moore Lake Dr and University Avenue	Unsafe crossing	Being evaluated under PEL
I	7th St from 57th to 54th Ave	No sidewalk	Complete
J	Northside of school campus and Commons between 7th and Jackson St	No sidewalk	City access road to wellhouse functions as sidewalk in Commons Park

Hayes			
A	Mississippi St and 7th	Unsafe crossing	RS application to include roundabout at 7th Street to include pedestrian refuge; SRTS application to include RRFB
B	Mississippi St between 7th and Monroe St	High speeds	School zone to be installed following roadway modernization
C	7th between 63rd Avenue and Mississippi St	Missing sidewalk connections	To be included in SRTS application
D	Mississippi St and Monroe St	Unsafe crossing	Awarded HSIP grant to Anoka County includes roundabout at Monroe; SRTS grant to include RRFB
E	Monroe between Mississippi St and Bennet Dr	Missing sidewalk connections	Not complete
F	Mississippi St from Highway 65 to University Avenue	High speeds/unsafe lane changes	RS application to include 4 to 3 lane conversion
G	Mississippi and Jackson St	Unsafe crossing	RS 4 to 3 lane conversion will shorten crossing and improve visibility; RRFB not being pursued to interest in RRFB at roundabout
H	Mississippi St and Highway 65	Unsafe crossing	RS to include reduction of corner radii, being evaluated under the PEL
I	Mississippi St and University	Unsafe crossing	Planned for installation by MnDOT



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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:

- Tabling at Senior Fair

The following activities are projected:

- November newsletter on fall energy efficiency
- Coats from Cops light bulb kit distribution event
- 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 (9/12-10/20)

- Tree and Native Plant Sale 9/16
- Critical Area Open House 9/19
- Moore Lake Pollinator Planting 9/21
- Commons Park Pollinator Planting 9/23
- Senior Open House 9/27

Confirmed events and topics

- Coats from Cops 10/26

Potential Upcoming Events

- Baby gear swap, February
- HRA Open House, February
- 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

Grants Under Review

- Safe Streets and Roads for All Planning Grant to create a Safety Action Plan
- CERTS Seed grant for solar feasibility analysis
- CERTS Seed grant to promote home energy squad visits
- DNR ReLeaf Grant
- DNR Shade Tree Grant

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
- University Avenue Lighting Project
- Met Council Climate Mitigation grant for feasibility study of 73rd Ave
- Met Council Water Efficiency Grant pt 3
- MDH Well Sealing Grant pt 3
- 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

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- Anoka County grant to include organics recycling at Moore Lake Park building
- Dog Waste Stations in Moore Lake Park
- CDBG Grant for 61st Avenue Parcel
- Sylvan Hills Park Feasibility Study

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

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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