



Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Meeting

September 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 July 11, 2023.

New Business

- [2.](#) Public Arts Plan Feedback
- [3.](#) Future Grant Applications
- [4.](#) 2024 Meeting Dates

Old Business

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

Other Items

- [8.](#) 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: September 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 July 11, 2023.

Background

Approve the minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission meeting of July 11, 2023

Recommendation

Approve the minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission meeting of July 11, 2023

Attachments and Other Resources

- Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Minutes- July 11, 2023

Vision Statement

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



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY & ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING

July 11, 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 7:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Amy Dritz
Nick Olberding
Aaron Klemz
Sam Stoxen
Mark Hansen

Absent: Justin Foell
Heidi Ferris

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 May 9, 2023 Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Dritz to approve the May 9, 2023 meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Stoxen. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

2. Park System Improvement Plan

Ms. Workin reviewed the draft Park System Improvement Plan Deconstruction Guidelines

Motion by Commissioner Hansen to recommend the Park System Improvement Plan Deconstruction Guidelines for approval. Seconded by Commissioner Ferris. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

3. Energy Action Plan updates

Ms. Workin shared the City was preparing for the EV Showcase. Commissioners Dritz, Klemz, and Hansen indicated that they may be able to participate

4. Grant updates

Ms. Workin shared that she learned that the City did not get a grant for an EV Charger for Moore Lake Park, however there were other grant opportunities coming up. She also said that the City had applied for a SS4A grant for a Safety Action Plan.

5. Outreach and Event updates

Ms. Workin shared that the Tree and Native Plant Sale was open.

Other Items

6. Digital Collaboration Brainstorming

No updates were shared

7. Informal Status Reports

Chair Klemz shared that the State was putting together a draft deconstruction ordinance. He also said that the State was looking to partner with Cities to pilot a new ordinance requiring that salt applicators be licensed by the City and required to take a smart salting course.

The group discussed cancelling the August meeting. Motion by Commissioner Ferris to cancel the August meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Stoxen. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Stoxen to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Dritz. The Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50.



AGENDA REPORT

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

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

Public Arts Plan Feedback

Background

The City is undertaking a planning process to develop a Public Arts Plan. Art can be a useful tool in raising environmental awareness and inspiring action. Commissioners are requested to identify locations for environmentally-themed public art to the map and consider adopting a statement recommending the inclusion of environmental-themes in public art in priority locations.

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/e67e14e41cea412d867a308494bd7a6d>.

Recommendation

Staff recommend commissioners provide comment for the Public Arts plan

Attachments and Other Resources

- None

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Future Grant Applications

Background

The Clean Energy Resource Team has released their bi-annual [Seed Grant application](#) which provides funding of \$5,000-\$10,000 for labor costs to support energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. The City is proposing to submit two applications:

1. We currently offer an insulation rebate that requires a Home Energy Squad visit prior to qualifying. I think the Home Energy Squad visit is helpful in developing a household energy upgrade plan and sets the resident on the right path to moving forward with the insulation work. The City currently buys down half of the HES visit but non-income qualifying residents still need to pay \$35-50. Could we use CERTS seed grant funds to 1) do a blitz mailing to targeted neighborhoods in environmental justice areas about the HES program/insulation rebate and 2) pay for the remaining resident share cost of the Home Energy Squad visit which would provide the residents with an energy action plan and eligibility for the insulation rebate?
2. To pay a solar contractor to complete an engineering review of the Fridley Public Works building to determine feasibility for rooftop solar as well, determine what rooftop modifications would be needed to support a solar system, and outline financial scenarios for the system including behind the meter purchase, community solar, or power purchase agreements.

Additionally, the DNR has open applications for the emerald ash borer mitigation work that can be used to fund ash removal and replacement on public property as well as private property owned by low-income residents. Staff is currently proposing to apply for \$500,000 in funding with 90% directed to tree removal and replacement on private property, 7% directed to ash tree removal and replacement in natural areas; 2% directed to tree plantings, and 1% to promotional materials.

Recommendation

Staff recommend the EQEC provide feedback on grant structures

Attachments and Other Resources

- None

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Title

2024 Meeting Dates

Background

Proposed 2024 meeting dates:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
9	13	12	9	14	11	9	13	10	8	12	10

Recommendation

Staff recommend the approval of the 2024 meeting dates

Attachments and Other Resources

- None

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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:

- EV Showcase 9/9

The following activities are projected in the next month:

- Tabling at Senior Fair on 9/27

Recommendation

None

Attachments and Other Resources

None

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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 (7/12-9/11)

- Kids Book Swap 7/26
- Mississippi River Concert 8/8
- Night to Unite Green Block Parties 8/1
- EV Showcase 9/11

Confirmed events and topics

- 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

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

- CERTS Seed Grants
- Regional Solicitation Grant- Mississippi St Trail
- Regional Solicitation Grant- 61st Avenue Trail
- DNR ReLeaf Grant
- DNR Shade Tree Grant
- 2024 Street Project Rain Gardens

Grants Under Review

- Safe Streets and Roads for All Planning Grant to create a Safety Action Plan

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
- BWSR HELP grant for native plant restoration on Commons Park hillside
- 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

Vision Statement

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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

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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