



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND ENERGY COMMISSION

June 08, 2021

7:00 PM

Fridley Civic Campus, 7071 University Ave N.E.

AGENDA

Pursuant to Mayoral Declaration 20-01 and Ordinance No. 1380, the June 8, 2021 meeting of the Fridley Charter Commission will be a virtual meeting. If you wish to attend the meeting virtually, please use the Zoom meeting link.

Virtual: <https://zoom.us/j/97322982377>. or call 312-626-6799, webinar ID: 998 2565 8385

Call to Order

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Approve the Minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission meeting of April 13, 2021.

New Business

2. Remote Bikeable Community Workshop

Old Business

Other Items

3. Shared Micromobility Vehicles
4. Informal Status Reports

Adjournment



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: June 8, 2021

Meeting Type: Environmental Quality and Energy
(EQEC) Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

Approve the Minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission meeting of April 13, 2021.

Background

Attached are the Minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission meeting of April 13, 2021.

Recommendation

Approve the Minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission meeting of April 13, 2021.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Minutes- April 13 2021

Vision Statement

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



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND ENERGY COMMISSION

Fridley Municipal Center, 7071 University Ave Ne

MINUTES

April 13, 2021

Location: Zoom Webinar

Call to Order

Commissioner Olberding called the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Amy Dritz, Justin Foell, Nick Olberding, Heidi Ferris, Mark Hansen, Aaron Klemz, and Sam Stoxen

Staff: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner; Deborah Dahl, Director of Community Services and Employee Resources; Alyssa Kruzel, Community Engagement Specialist

Approval of Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Minutes

1. Adopt the Agenda

Commissioner Hansen made a motion to adopt the agenda and Commissioner Stoxen seconded the motion.

MOTION PASSED unanimously

2. Approve March 9 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Hansen made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Foell seconded the motion.

MOTION PASSED unanimously.

New Business

1. Commission Updates

- a. New Commission Member Aaron Klemz
- b. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Commissioner Dritz was appointed Chair and Commissioner Olberding as Vice Chair.

2. Parks Master Plan Update – Deborah Dahl, Director of Community Services and Employee Resources

The Parks Master Plan is up and running, business and redevelopment is changing, housing additions and apartment buildings are being built and the Fridley is transforming. The biggest next venture is to improve the entire park system city wide. Fridley's park system was established more than 50 years ago. There are 38 parks in the city and that is a lot to maintain, improve and enhance. Parks and trails bring value to our community and residents.

Parks and trees are good for the environment and improves our health and fitness. In 2015 the city went into action in trying to figure out where the issues were and make some changes. A plan and survey was done around Moore Lake that would cost \$4.5m. If all our money was spent on one park, what will happen to other

parks and trails? From that Finding your Fun in Fridley was developed and launched in 2019. Just about everyone in the city is able to get to a park within walking distance. We have learned it isn't about the abundance of parks but if the needs are being served for those who use the parks.

Fridley has a lot of nice parks, but conditions need to be improved systemwide. There has never been a systematic or financial plan on how to deal with park infrastructure needs. Most of our parks do not adhere or only meet minimum ADA guidelines. Safety is #1 priority. The maintenance team does a great job and they were asked for input and evaluation of our parks.

The capital value investment of parks for the city is about \$43.0M in assets. We receive about \$215,000 on an annual basis from LGA funding, park dedication fees and grants to offset expenses. About \$243,000 is spent annually in capital park improvement projects. Currently there is about \$1.0m to spend on the park system. The city cannot spend more than 65% of the funds available. The Springbrook Nature Center has had great success and is the crown jewel of the city. Buildings were transformed to beautiful buildings and attractive amenities were added.

Fridley residents want improved playground amenities, gathering spaces, year-round use and connectivity, and unique amenities and experiences. Additionally, being ADA compliant, communication, signage, technology/Wi-Fi and lighting. Include nature by expanding trails, year-round use, sustainable and environmentally friendly. Provide quality facilities with gathering spaces, unique experiences, and flexible to meet changing needs.

The vision is to modernize the park system and take it to the next level. Guide future investments for development and improvements, identify strategic methodology for prioritization and line up efforts with the 2040 comprehensive plan. The planning process performed an in-depth analysis of area needs and parks. They looked at access and barriers as well as underserved populations. An engagement was initiated with key groups and partners and concept plans were designed. A draft of an implementation strategy was prepared along with cost estimates.

A Story Map website was created, and staff continue to collect feedback. The goals and concept plans include to enhance the unique identity of community parks, improve, update parks to meet the current needs of the community and current trends in recreation, increase connectivity throughout the park system, and environmental stewardship initiatives. The planning process and draft implement strategy includes balance recreation across the community, meet the needs of diverse community demographics, improve access to recreation for underserved populations, account for changes in recreation trends and demands, build champions and support for the future and prioritize parks. Visit fridleymn.gov/findingyourfun-updates and use the online parks map to view existing amenities, look at neighborhood parks and community park design concepts, submit ideas and feedback by April 30. Reach out to staff, council, and commissions members.

Moore Lake is 14 acres and the existing features include playground, beach concessions and building with restrooms picnic shelters, tennis, basketball and volleyball court, fishing piers, trails/walks, swimming beach,

ball field and parking lot. The funding options estimated cost is \$50 million 10-year plan. Current capital improvement, donations and grants, round up water bills, dedicate additional Liquor Store revenue, events and fundraising, park dedication fees, pursue legislation action, raise fees for programs and services, bonding, and joint powers or sponsorship from schools and businesses. Communication and marketing plan will be done through the City website, social media and nextdoor.com, Fridley for you emails, digital billboard, City newsletter, community connection videos and lawn signs in parks and throughout the City.

The next steps include public engagement and communications, resident survey results, explore funding options, compile and analyze feedback and results, town hall meeting June 5th and follow up with stakeholders and determine the next steps. Current projects include Craig Park, Civic Campus Playground, Civic Campus Trail, Bridge and Pond, Joint Powers Agreement review with Anoka County Parks, SNC Pavilion/Activity Center is completed and 2021-22 projects.

Using the current pace for parks improvements the project will take 137 years to complete. Assets will continue to deteriorate, health and safety hazards are present, it is a poor image and loss of pride, loss of home and business value, loss of future revenue with programs, loss of public support and trust and the cost for revitalization will continue to increase. If the parks master plan is successful it will build focus on Fridley Goals of Vibrancy, Safety and Environmentally Friendly. It will expand access with Parks for All, provide more programs and options for fun in Fridley, build a stronger, healthier and safer community, show that we listened and responded to our community, increase home and business values, attract new residents, business and visitors, prepare for the next generations and prepare and building our \$43 million assets.

How can you get involved? Review the concepts and designs, provide feedback or complete surveys, spread the word and build awareness, share any ideas for funding, become a Parks Champion and make connections and introductions with developers, realtors, groups, or businesses if they want to become more involved.

Old Business

3. Energy Action Update

Ms. Workin said that Xcel continues to support this program and do monthly check ins. Goals are being set based on community energy use. The key takeaway is that we are able to meet goals on resident participation, however the same success was not seen with the commercial use and in the area of multi-family programs. We are proud of the work we did and will continue in the future. There will be concerts on Tuesdays at the Civic Campus and we plan to do some marketing outreach to talk about energy efficiency programs at the concerts.

Adjourn

Commissioner Stoxen made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Ferris seconded the motion.

MOTION PASSED unanimously.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: June 8, 2021

Meeting Type: Environmental Quality and Energy
(EQEC) Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

Remote Bikeable Community Workshop

Background

On May 5 and May 12, 2021 Fridley community members including participants of the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission participated in a Remote Bikeable Community Workshop through BikeMN. The workshop centered around action planning under the categories of Evaluation, Engineering, Education, Engagement and Encouragement. The City has been provided with a draft action plan following that workshop.

Recommendation

Review and update draft action plan

Attachments and Other Resources

- Fridley Remote BCW Plan- Draft

Vision Statement

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

Fridley Remote Bicycle Community Workshop

BCW Facilitation Instructions

STEP 1

World Cafe Style: 4 breakout rooms
Split room into 4 small groups
Each presenter (MDH, MnDOT, BikeMN x2) will lead one group
Total time: 70 minutes

30 minutes: Rotate through the Es:

- ⌚ 10 minutes first rotation
- ⌚ 8 minutes second
- ⌚ 6 minutes third
- ⌚ 6 minutes fourth

STEP 2

20 Minute: Voting exercise: After 4 rotations, breakout rooms return to the full group. Rotating one E at a time, each participant is given two votes on top ideas for each E

STEP 4

15 minutes: With the top ideas, pick one idea (two if time allows), come up with...
Partners needed to work on this project (including people not in the room)
Resources required
Timeline & steps
Equity considerations

NOTES

Top Action Items

Evaluate wayfinding signage	gsp/ analysis Spot improvements with Anoka/ MnDOT	Commuter group ride, slow roll ride	Work with local businesses to promote biking
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Partners Needed

Resources Required

Equity Considerations

Timeline and Steps

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
Timeline				

Evaluation & Planning

Planning for a safe and connected bicycling network
Measuring the impact of bicycle facilities

What actions should Fridley take over the next 6-12 months to improve Evaluation & Planning?

6 Months				12 Months			
survey	set up bike booth at events	pre-project bike count 7th	bike count post project university	Evaluate wayfinding signage	Evaluate how to include bike parking at big city events		
purchase bike counter	distribute bike routes map - what's the plan?	translate route map	safe routes to promote safer routes	Mississippi Street, Construction, how to plan for access to destinations	Investigate overlaps with Safe Routes to School		
video of trails to google	free bikes for kids- was at hayes maybe at almas	adult classes	safe routes for neighborhoods				
	safe crossing evaluation	check on SRTS plan implementation					

Engineering

Building connected bicycle facilities

What actions should Fridley take over the next 6-12 months to improve Engineering?

6 Months				12 Months			
Install Fix-it stations (Osborne & E River Road)	Audit bike parking at hot spots in town, make sure it is quality	Multi use trail- will be added along TH 47 (Boulevard)	Engineering networking	Evaluate trail pavement conditions	Future MRT located on west side of River Road (begin advocacy)	Evaluate neighborhood pathway/trail connections	Evaluate city biking network, update per redevelopment (connectivity)
Rev. AT Plan w/ Anoka/ MnDOT	gsp/ analysis Spot improvements with Anoka/ MnDOT	business bike rack program		Evaluate connectivity to destinations (grocery stores, school, library)	Signage- wayfinding	consider a demonstration project	
				mobility hub 6th/ university			

Education

Teaching communities how to safely use bicycle facilities

What actions should Fridley take over the next 6-12 months to improve Education?

6 Months				12 Months			
				BikeShare/ piddleshare partnership & education	Commuter group ride, slow roll ride	Adult learn to ride	add bike info to drive ed
				Bike lessons for kids at the local park(s)	signage education	add bike maintenance to helmet clinic	organize ride on MRT
Show up at community events	Using communication channels (Fridley newsletter, social media, digital letter sign)			invite metro transit bike rack clients at different events	distribute bike handbook to library, bike shop	bike maintenance education at events	partner with Anoka park to do winter rides
go to teachers for bike education	Work with other community orgs (Beth groves, scouting, library, community ed, daycare)			education on local resources	put map online with QR code	bike education page on website	

Engagement & Encouragement

Listening to and involving community members
Key to having communities access and use facilities

What actions should Fridley take over the next 6-12 months to improve Engagement and Encouragement?

6 Months				12 Months			
EDU bike ride(s) family, seniors, BPOC	making the connections- inventory/ eval	FB group- officialish- lled by Ellen group	Group ride- business downtown (weekly, a group of people park- neighborhoods of various income levels)	48hr days 22 bike ride, parking, Open Streets?	have a ride/ walk the route before school to show who makes bike travel	Anoka City partner- project planning dashboard to disadvantaged (get job)	bike 50km
Engage/partner with new groups along with existing ones (Fridley, Anoka, Parkville, etc.)	Hand out bike flyer to apartment complex and associations	Hand out info at national night out	look into the Bike Friendly business program	Create short education videos to share on social media	Work with local businesses to promote biking	partner with bike 50k for bike maintenance	biking club that does monthly rides
				bike swap event- try different types	sharing routes (map by ride)		

Fridley Bikeable Community Workshop

May 5-12th, 2021

Action Plan:

Top voted actions

- Evaluation & Planning: Evaluate wayfinding signage
- Engineering: Gap analysis. Spot improvements with Anoka/ MnDOT
- Education: Commuter group ride, slow roll ride
- Engagement & Encouragement: Work with local businesses to promote biking

During the workshop, we worked together to begin an action plan towards top voted action items. Our goal is to use that plan structure to move this and similar projects forward. Below, you will find an example of continuing this process in pursuit of improved wayfinding signage.

Next steps example: *Wayfinding Signage*

<i>Partners Needed</i>	<i>EQEC, public works, city planners, graphic designers, local advocates</i>
<i>Resources Required</i>	<i>Evaluation of current signage, studies on wayfinding needed, funding for design and implementation, surveys of public feedback</i>
<i>Equity Considerations</i>	<i>Wayfinding language translation, ADA accessibility of signage design and placement, demographics of destinations routed by signage</i>

Timeline towards next steps

	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Action	<i>Planning</i>	<i>Design</i>	<i>Implementation</i>
Responsibility	<i>EQEC/Planners/Advocates</i>	<i>Designers/Planners/EQEC</i>	<i>Public works</i>
Timeline	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>August</i>

Action Plan Ideas

Evaluation & Planning

6 Months

- Survey
- Set up bike booth at events
- Pre-project bike count 7th
- Bike count post-project University
- Purchase bike counter
- Distribute bike routes map
- Translate route map
- Safe routes to promote safer routes
- Video of trails to google
- Free bikes for kids- was at hayes maybe al amal
- Adult classes
- Safe routes for neighborhoods
- Safe crossing evaluation
- Check-in SRTS plan implementation

12 Months

- **Evaluate wayfinding signage**
- Evaluate how to include bike parking at big city events
- Mississippi Street Construction, how to plan for access to destinations
- Investigate overlaps with Safe Routes to School

Engineering

6 Months

- Install Fix-it stations (Osborne & E. River Road)
- Audit bike parking at hot spots in town- make sure it is quality
- Multi use trail- will be added along TH 47 (61st-69th)
- Engineering networking
- Rev: AT Plan w Anoka/ MnDOT
- **Gap/ analysis Spot improvements with Anoka/ MnDOT**
- Business bike rack program

12 Months

- Evaluate trail pavement conditions
- Future MRT located on west side of River Road (begin advocacy)
- Evaluate neighborhood connections
- Evaluate city biking network, update per redevelopment (connectivity)
- Evaluate connectivity to destinations (grocery store, school, library)
- Signage-wayfinding
- Consider a demonstration project
- Mobility hub 61st/ university

Education

6 Months

- Show up at community events
- Using communication channels (Fridley newsletter, social media, digital traffic sign)
- Go to teachers for bike education
- Work with other community orgs (faith groups, scouting, library, community ed, daycare)
- Add bike info to drive ed
- Bike lessons for kids at the local parks
- Signage education
- Add bike maintenance to helmet clinic
- Organize ride on MRT
- Invite metro transit bike rack demo at different events
- Distribute bike handbook to library, bike shop

12 Months

- Bikeshare/ paddleshare partnership & education
- **Commuter group ride, slow roll ride**
- Adult learn to ride
- Bike maintenance education at events
- Partner with Anoka park to do winter rides
- Education on local resources
- Put map online with QR code
- Bike education page on website

Encouragement and Engagement

6 Months

- EQU bike ride(s): family, seniors, BIPOC
- Making the connections: comms-inventory/ eval
- Official FB group
- Group ride between riverview heights & island of peace park (neighborhoods of various income levels)
- Engage/partner with new groups-dog park? senior center? Fishing at Manomin Park/Moore Lake? Paddling Rice Creek Trail
- Hand out bike flyer to apartment complex and associations
- Hand out info at national night out

- look into the Bike Friendly business program

12 Months

- 49er days 22 bike ride, parking, Open Streets
- Have a ride/ walk the week before school to show safe routes
- Anoka Cty partner- project planning outreach to disadvantaged (jim/ joe)
- Bike 50Km
- Create short education videos to share on social media
- **Work with local businesses to promote biking**
- Partner with bike 50k for bike maintenance
- Biking club that does monthly rides
- Bike swap event- try different types
- sharing routes (map my ride)

Item 2.

The map displays a proposed bus route in Fridley, MN, with six numbered stops. The route begins at the Mississippi River (Stop 1), proceeds to East River Rd (Stop 2), then to a bus stop (Stop 3), Community Park (Stop 4), Mercy Hospital Unity Campus (Stop 5), and ends at Osborne Rd NE (Stop 6). The map includes labels for the Mississippi River, River Park, Community Park, Commons Park, Moore Lake Park, Fridley High School, and various roads like Hwy 65 NE and Mississippi St NE.

- Less Comfortable:

- ## Workshop Participants

Name	Email	Organization
Rachel Workin	rachel.workin@fridleymn.gov	City of Fridley
Justin Foell	justin@foell.org	City of Fridley
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Aaron Klemz	klemzaa@gmail.com	Fridley EQEC



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: June 8, 2021

Meeting Type: Environmental Quality and Energy (EQEC) Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin

Title

Shared Micromobility Vehicles

Background

The City received a Text Amendment from Bird Rides Inc to allow for Shared Micromobility Vehicles within the public right-of-way. There will be a public hearing before the Planning Commission on June 16.

Recommendation

Provided for informational purposes

Attachments and Other Resources

- None

Vision Statement

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