



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND ENERGY COMMISSION
Fridley Municipal Center, 7071 University Ave Ne
MINUTES

June 8, 2021

Location: Zoom Webinar

Call to Order

Commissioner Dritz 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, Aaron Klemz, and Sam Stoxen

Absent: Mark Hansen

Staff: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Adopt the Agenda

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

MOTION PASSED unanimously

1. Approve April 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Olberding made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Ferris seconded the motion.

MOTION PASSED unanimously.

New Business

2. Remote Bikeable Community Workshop

Ms. Workin thanked commissioners for participating in the Remote Bikeable Community Workshop. She provided commissioners updates on trail projects within the City, including the award of funding for the 53rd Ave Trail between Highway 65 and Main Street and the development of plans for the 7th Street trail between 53rd Avenue and 61st Avenue. Ms. Workin also shared that the City had a demonstration project for a road diet on the University Avenue Service Rd. Commissioner Foell recommended providing contact information onsite for people to give feedback on the demonstration project. Commissioner Ferris asked if staff would consider providing green space buffer behind the curb for additional stormwater management and pollinator benefits. Ms. Workin said that she would find more information but provided decreased impacts to the adjacent property owner, difficulty establishing grass, maintenance, and trail widening as potential reasonings for having a paved buffer.

Ms. Workin shared the workshop summary for the Remote Bikeable Community Workshop. The summary identified the top priority items as 1) wayfinding signage, 2) gap analysis, 3) slow ride, 4) promoting biking to businesses. Ms. Workin asked the Commissioners how they would like to move forward. Commissioners recommended prioritizing wayfinding. Mr. Foell shared Edina's wayfinding signage. Ms. Workin said that staff would work on developing a wayfinding plan for EQEC review. Ms. Workin also shared that she was meeting with Anoka County TMO and BikeMN to learn more information on opportunities for businesses.

Commissioners discussed if there was an opportunity for the police to engage with the public or conduct their patrols via bicycle. Ms. Workin said she would check with the police department.

Other Items

3. Shared Micromobility Vehicles

Ms. Workin said that 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. Commissioner Klemz asked if scooters would be able to move between Minneapolis and Fridley if approved. Ms. Workin said she would find out.

4. Informal Status Reports

Ms. Workin shared that the rental department was switching to a Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle. She also said that she would be tabling at a summer concert series at the Civic Campus. Commissioners also discussed the impact of electric vehicles on the City's Energy Action Plan. Commissioner Dritz recommended working with the Center for Energy and Environment to discuss the next phase of Energy Action Plan implementation.

Adjourn

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

MOTION PASSED unanimously.